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AUTHORITY
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LOOK WHAT WE'RE PITCHING THIS ISH! A FABIAN NICIEZA INTERVIEW! PREVIEWS OF FAFHRD AND THE GRAY MOUSER," AND ZORRO! MUTANT REPORT LOOKS AT THE MUTANTS IN NEW WARRIORS," ALPHA FLIGHT," AND CLOAK AND DAGGER! PLUS: STAN LEE! FRED HEMBECK! MARK GRUENWALD!

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SALICRUP'S SECTION

It began January 1990; for the very first time MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE was available at newsstands everywhere. Unfortunately, this will be the last issue available at newsstands everywhere. It was an experiment that didn't quite work out. But have no fear —MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE is still available at your favorite comic book shop and by subscription. For all the thousands of new loyal MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE followers, we suggest that you support your local comic book shop, but if there isn't a shop near you, we've provided a handy, dandy subscription coupon for your convenience.

If you're looking for an even better deal, check out the subscription coupon on page 32 of most Marvel comics.

As for MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE itself, look forward to big changes in the upcoming issues! First off, we'll be dropping Marvel Coming Attractions. Ever since THE MARVEL REQUIRER came along there doesn't seem to be much of a reason to repeat that information here (And, hey, if you're not already picking up THE MARVEL REQUIRER at your favorite comics shop, what're you waiting for? Not only does it give you the title-by-title info you're looking for but it's also FREE!). Well, we're rapidly running out of room, so I'd better save something for next issue! So, so long, newsstands, hello, comic book shops!

—*Jim Salicrup*

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MARVEL AGE® Vol. 1, No. 93, October, 1990. (ISSN #8750-4367) Published by MARVEL COMICS, James E Galton, President; Stan Lee, Publisher, Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N Y 10016. **SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES.** Published monthly. Copyright ™ 1990 by Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved Price $1 00 per copy in the U S and $1.25 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues $12.00 U.S , $17 00 Canada, and $24 00 foreign. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition MARVEL AGE (including all MARVEL titles and prominent MARVEL characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) are trademarks of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP INC **POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO MARVEL AGE, c/o MARVEL COMICS, 9TH FLOOR, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016.** Printed in the U S A

Here's a complete checklist of what's happening in all the Marvel, Epic, and Marvel U.K. titles shipping in September.

Titles Shipping September 4
On Sale September 25

☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA** #379—**Quasar** and **Cap** up against the super-powered **Nefarius**! By **Mark Gruenwald, Ron Lim,** and **Danny Bulanadi**. Plus a solo **USAgent** story by **Mark Gruenwald, Mark Bagley,** and **Don Pinochin**. $1.00.

☐ **AVENGERS WEST COAST** #64—The **Avengers West Coast** no more? By **Roy Thomas, Paul Ryan,** and **Danny Bulanadi**. $1.00.

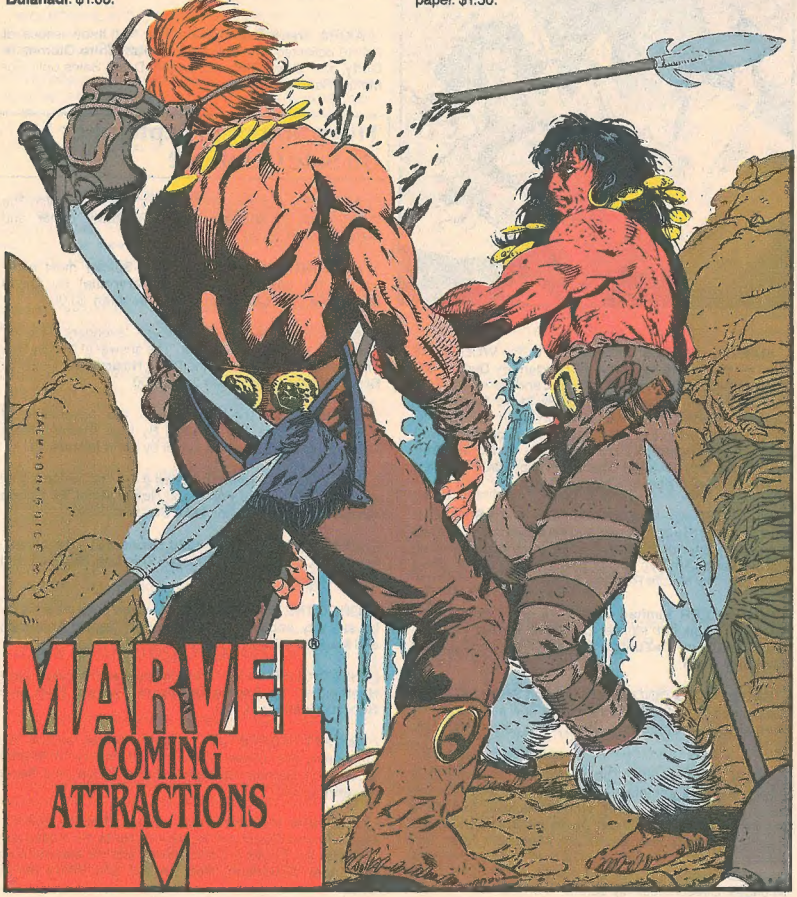
☐ **DAREDEVIL** #286—**Daredevil**. . .a criminal? Plus the return of **Bullseye**! By **Ann Nocenti, John Romita, Jr.,** and **Al Williamson**. $1.00.

☐ **NAMOR THE SUB-MARINER** #8—The identity of the **Headhunter** revealed! By **John Byrne**. $1.00.

☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN** #70—Make way for the horrifying **Spider-Hulk**! By **Gerry Conway, Alex Saviuk,** and **Keith Williams**. $1.00.

☐ **X-MEN** #270—"The X-Tinction Agenda" Part 1—**Storm** and the **New Mutants,** prisoners of the **Genoshan Magistrates**! Guest-starring **Cable** and **Marvel Girl**. By **Chris Claremont, Jim Lee,** and **Art Thibert**. $1.00.

☐ **DARKMAN Limited Series** #2—The continuing biweekly adaptation of the hit horror movie. By **Ralph Macchio, Bob Hall,** and **Tony DeZuniga**. Mando Offset paper. $1.50.



☐ **MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS** #62—WOLVERINE Part 1—**Wolverine** kills **Archie Corrigan**! By **Dwight Jon Zimmerman, Paul Ryan** and **Harry Candelario**. POISON Part 3—**Poison** versus the **Slug**! By **Steve Gerber** and **Cynthia Martin**. SCARLET WITCH Part 3—**Scarlet Witch**. . .trapped in the 16th century! By **Richard Howell**. Plus a special **Deathlok** story by **Dwayne McDuffie, Gregory Wright**, and **Jackson Guice**. Cover by **Paul Ryan** and **Al Williamson**. Biweekly. 32 pages. $1.25.

☐ **STALKERS** #8—Fast food murder—and a **Stalker**'s in the middle of it! By **Jan Strnad** and **Val Mayerick**. Plus a tale of the early days of the **Stalkers**! By **Mark Verheiden** and **Mark Texeira**. An Epic comic. Mando Offset paper. Direct Sales only. For Mature Readers. $1.50.

☐ **FOOLKILLER Limited Series** #2—The newest, the deadliest, **Foolkiller** strikes! By **Steve Gerber** and **J.J. Birch**, and **Tony DeZuniga**. Mando Offset paper. Direct Sales only. $1.75.

☐ **CADILLACS & DINOSAURS Limited Series** #1—The stunning black and white fantasy saga now in full color! By **Mark Shultz**. An Epic comic. Offset paper. Direct Sales only. $2.50.

☐ **OPEN SPACE** #5—The acclaimed science-fiction, shared universe anthology saga continues with "Demonworld" by **Maggie Thomson, Vince Mielcarek**, and **Marie Severin**, "Weak Link" by **Peter David** and **Bill Koeb**, "Deadline" by **Lawrence Watt-Evans** and **Alexander Ross**, and "Random Error" by **Judith** and **Garfield Reeves-Stevens, Louis LaChance**, and **Richard Howell**. Bookshelf Format. 64 pages. Direct Sales only. $5.95.

☐ **MOEBIUS Graphic Novel** #7: **THE GODDESS**—More incredible fantasy adventures by **Moebius**. Continuing characters from "The Gardens of Aedna." An Epic Graphic Novel. 96 pages. Direct Sales only. For Mature Readers. $12.95.

☐ **CLIVE BARKER'S HELLRAISER** #4—More tales of horror in the Hellraiser universe. Stories by **Nick Vince, Bunny Hampton, Mark** and **Jan Strnad**. Art by **John Van Fleet, Scott Hampton**, and **Mark Chiarello**. An Epic comic. Bookshelf Format. 64 pages. Direct Sales only. For Mature Readers. $5.95.

☐ **SHE-HULK** #21—Part 1 of 3. She-Hulk battles a female Abomination, the bone-crushing **Abominatrix**! By **Steve Gerber, Buzz Dixon, Tom Artis**, and **Jim Sanders**. Mando Offset paper. Direct Sales only. $1.50.

☐ **AKIRA Trade Paperback**—The first three issues of AKIRA collected in one volume! By **Katsuhiro Otomo, Jo Duffy**, and **Steve Oliff**. 192 pages. Direct Sales only. For Mature Readers. $14.95.

Titles Shipping September 11 On Sale October 2

☐ **ALF** #35—**ALF** reveals Melmac's own "Gone With The Wind" saga! By **Michael Gallagher, Rusty Haller**, and **Marie Severin**. $1.00.

☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #341—**Spidey** must battle without his powers against the **Tarantula**! By **David Michelinie, Erik Larsen**, and **Mike Machlan**. $1.00.

☐ **AVENGERS SPOTLIGHT** #38—"Avengers Reborn" Part 2: What happened to **Tigra**? The answer at last! By **Roy Thomas, June Brigman**, and **Doug Hazlewood**. Cover by **Steve Lightle**. Direct Sales only. $1.00.

☐ **BARBIE** #1—The premiere of the adventures of America's greatest doll—Barbie! By **Lisa Trusiani, Mary Wilshire**, and **John Lucas**. Cover by **John Romita, Sr.**

☐ **BRUTE FORCE Limited Series** #4—The climactic final battle between **Brute Force** and **Heavy Metal**. By **Simon Furman, Jose Delbo**, and **Mike DeCarlo**. $1.00.

☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA Limited Series** #2—The adaptation of the Cap movie conludes! By **Stan Lee, Bob Hall**, and **Tom Morgan**. $1.00.

☐ **GROO THE WANDERER** #71—**Groo** pays the price for his stupidity. And everybody suffers! By **Sergio Aragonés** and **Mark Evanier**. An Epic comic. $1.00.

☐ **HEATHCLIFF** #53—"Sonja White and the Seven Lazy **Heathcliffs**!" By **Angelo DeCesare, Howard Post**, and **Roberta Edelman**. $1.00.

☐ **MIGHTY MOUSE** #2—**Mighty Mouse** versus his archenemy the **Glove**. Plus the full history of **Mighty Mouse**! By **Michael Gallagher, Ernie Colon**, and **Marie Severin**. $1.00.

☐ **THE NEW MUTANTS** #95—"The X-Tinction Agenda" Part 2: To save **Storm** and the **New Mutants**, the **X-Men** and **X-Factor** join forces to battle **Havok** and the **Genoshans**! By **Louise Simonson, Rob Liefeld**, and **Hilary Barta**. $1.00.

☐ **QUASAR** #16—The final battle between the **Stranger** and the **Overmind**, plus the fate of the **Watchers** and a cast of thousands! By **Mark Gruenwald, Mike Manley**, and **Dan Panosian**. Cover by **Steve Lightle**. $1.50.

☐ **ZORRO Limited Series** #1—New adventures of the classic swashbuckling hero! By **Ian Rimmer** and **Mario Capaldi**. A Marvel U.K. comic. $1.00.

☐ **GHOST RIDER** #7—**Scarecrow**'s escaped from prison. **Ghost Rider**'s after him. But watch out for **Blackout**! By **Howard Mackie** and **Mark Texeira**. Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

☐ **TOMORROW KNIGHTS** #4—Special origin issue! By **Rod Whigham** and **Roy Richardson**. An Epic comic. Mando Offset paper. Direct Sales only. For Mature Readers. $1.50.

☐ **WOLVERINE** #33—**Wolvie** rises from his grave to non-stop ninja action! By **Larry Hama, Mark Silvestri**, and **Dan Green**. Mando Offset paper. $1.75.

☐ **THE PUNISHER MAGAZINE** #16—Re-presenting from PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL #3: "A Dish Best Served Cold." By **Carl Potts** and **Jim Lee** with painted cover by **Joe Chiodo**. And from PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL #8: "Damage" by **Carl Potts** and **Jim Lee**. Black and white magazine. 48 pages. $2.25.

☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN** #179—Conan teams up with **Red Sonja, Valeria**, and the **Iron Damsels**! By **Chuck Dixon** and **Gary Kwapisz**. Plus a special **Conan** bodyguard story by **Eric Fein** and **Ernie Chan**. Black and white magazine. 64 pages. $2.25.

☐ **STRIP** #16—The hit anthology adventure series, now starring the **Punisher**! Re-presenting in full color for the first time from CLASSIC PUNISHER "Accounts Settled, Accounts Due!" by **Archie Goodwin, Tony DeZuniga**, and **Rico Rival**. Plus: "Genghis Grimtoad" by **John Wagner, Alan Grant**, and **Ian Gibson**; "Wolfram" by **Eric Puech**; "Storm: Labyrinth of Death" by **Martin Lodewijk** and **Don Lawrence**; and "Death's Head" by **Simon Furman** and **Geoff Senior**. A Marvel U.K. comic. Biweekly. 48 pages. Direct Sales only. For Mature Readers. $2.50.

☐ **BLACK PANTHER Limited Series** #2—The **Panther** for the first time against Prey! By **Don McGregor** and **Dwayne Turner**. Bookshelf Format. 48 pages. Direct Sales only. $3.95.

☐ **X-MEN VERSUS THE FANTASTIC FOUR Trade Paperback**—The Limited Series in one volume! By **Chris Claremont, Jon Bogdanove**, and **Terry Austin**. Trade Paperback. 96 pages. Direct Sales only. $9.95.

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☐ **THE AVENGERS** #326—A new mansion, a new villain, and action, action, action! By **Larry Hama, Paul Ryan**, and **Tom Palmer**. $1.00.

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☐ **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** #94—An exclusive interview with **Dale Keown**, feature article on the LAST AMERICAN Limited Series. Plus **Stan's Soapbox, Mark's Remarks, Hembeck's Page, Marvel Trivia Quiz**, and more! $1.00.

☐ **MARVEL TALES** #243—Re-presenting from MARVEL TEAM-UP #117, Spidey's classic adventure with **Wolverine**! By **J.M. DeMatteis, Herb Trimpe**, and **Mike Esposito**. New cover by **Marshall Rogers**. $1.00.

☐ **THE PUNISHER** #42—The **Punisher** attacks a child pornography cartel! By **Mike Baron** and **Mark Texeira**. Cover by **Ron Wagner**. $1.00.

☐ **SILVER SURFER** #43—The conclusion to the "Dynamo City" saga! By **Jim Starlin**, and **Ron Lim**. $1.00.

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☐ **MARVEL MASTERWORKS** #13: **THE FANTASTIC FOUR**—Re-presenting FANTASTIC FOUR #s 21-30 and FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #1! By **Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Dick Ayers, George Bell,** and **Chic Stone**. Hardcover. 280 pages. Direct Sales only. $34.95.

☐ **EXCALIBUR** #31—An astonishing surprise awaits **Excalibur**! One or some of them may not survive! By **Michael Higgins** and **Chris Wozniak**. Mando Offset paper. $1.75.

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☐ **MOON KNIGHT** #20—The search for **Midnight** continues. Guest-starring **Spider-Man** and the **Punisher**. By **Chuck Dixon, Sal Velluto,** and **Tom Palmer**. Cover by **Jackson Guice**. Mando Offset paper. Direct Sales only. $1.50.

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☐ **DARKMAN Limited Series** #3—The conclusion of the adaptation of the hit suspense movie! By **Ralph Macchio, Bob Hall,** and **Tony DeZuniga**. Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

☐ **NOMAD Limited Series** #1—**Nomad**'s gotten tougher, deadlier. And wait'll you see why! By **Fabian Nicieza, James Fry,** and **Mark McKenna**. Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

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☐ **NIGHTBREED** #6—Civil war breaks out with the Nightbreed! By **D.G. Chichester**. An Epic comic. Coated Offset paper. Direct Sales only. For Mature Readers. $2.25.

☐ **DOCTOR WHO MAGAZINE** #165—The latest news about the hit television series and more! A Marvel U.K. black and white magazine. 64 pages. Direct Sales only. $3.95.

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☐ **THE PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL** #24—The action-packed conclusion of "Ruins"! By **Carl Potts** and **Tod Smith**. Mando Offset paper. $1.75.

☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR** #346—The **Fantastic Four**, trapped in the age of dinosaurs! By **Walter Simonson**. $1.00.

☐ **KNIGHTS OF PENDRAGON Limited Series** #4—**Dai Thomas** and **Captain Britain** versus hi-tech assassins! By **Dan Abnett, John Tomlinson, Gary Erskine**, and **Andy Lanning**. Cover By **Alan Davis**. A Marvel U.K. comic. Direct Sales only. $1.95.

☐ **CONAN SAGA** #44—Re-presenting from SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #42 "Conan the Buccaneer" Part 3 by **Roy Thomas, John Buscema**, and **Tony DeZuniga**; from SSOC #39 "Moon of Skulls" Part 3 by **Don Glut** and **Dave Wenzel**; and the story of **Conan**'s savior, **Olgerd Vladislav**, from SSOC #58 by **Roy Thomas** and **Kerry Gammill**. A Marvel black and white magazine. 64 pages. For Mature Readers. $2.25.

☐ **MARVEL REQUIRER** #8—Want to know more about next month's comics? Then check out MARVEL REQUIRER! Direct Sales only. Free.

SUPER-VILLAIN® CHECKLIST

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Bullseye—DAREDEVIL #286
Calypso—SPIDER-MAN #4
Damage—PUNISHER MAGAZINE #16
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Dr. Doom—MARVEL MASTERWORKS #13, X-MEN VERSUS THE FANTASTIC FOUR Trade Paperback
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Goro—WOLVERINE #33
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Stump—MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #62, 63
Super-Skrull—INCREDIBLE HULK #375
Tabur, the Cat-Demon—AVENGERS SPOTLIGHT #38
Tarantula—AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #341
Varau—MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #63
Wrecking Crew—THOR #426

NEWSWATCH

ITEM! You thought Quicksilver was the fastest man at Marvel? Guess again! On June 7, a host of merry Marvelites entered the Corporate Challenge Race in Central Park, sponsored by Manufacturer's Hanover. The 3½ mile race was the second of three, with the third scheduled for June 28. According to team captain Bob "Speedy" Budiansky, there are approximately 10,000 runners in each race, from corporations all over the New York City metropolitan area. The Corporate Challenge is part of a larger series of races held all over the world, in cities such as London and Oslo. Bob noted that the winners of the Corporate Challenge receive no money—"it's just for fun." In the June 7 race, 21 Marvel marathon-ers competed—12 guys, and 9 gals. The title of "Fastest Man at Marvel" went to Danny "Dash" Gonzalez, of our accounting department. Fastest woman was Bettie "Run Rings Around You" Ringma. Strangely absent from the race were any competitors from DC Comics. Though Marvel has entered the Corporate Challenge for four years running, DC has yet to meet the challenge. Perhaps they're just ashamed to be seen in running shorts. Come on, DC—we know you can compete with us on the comic racks. Now how about competing on the tracks as well?

ITEM! One of the major highlights of the big comic conventions this summer is the Marvelympics, which pits some of Marvel's mightiest against you, the fans, in some of the silliest competitions ever conceived. Among the events: The Serpent Society Slither, the Living Mummy Wrap (in which two lucky contestants are wrapped in toilet paper), the Ringer Ring Toss, The Avengers/Masters of Evil Tug of War, the Galactus Planetoid Snack-Off (where the object is to stuff as many marshmallows in your face as possible without swallowing), the Hobgoblin Pumpkin Bomb Relay, the MODOK Headstand-off, the Black Bolt Yell-Off (where the person who can scream the loudest wins), the Stiltman Stand-Off, the Capt. America mini-shield toss, and something called the Speedball Whack-Off, which we can't go into here, since this is a family magazine. One event sure to bring a tear to the eyes of every Marvelite is the Spidey Tear-erama, where the object is to rip through a stack of Spider-Man #1's. The Marvelympics have been held at several conventions this year, and already there has been one casualty—assistant editor Gary Barnum received severe rug burns during the Serpent Society Slither. New Editor on the Block Fabian Nicieza is the organizer for the Marvelympics, and he picked out a few MVP's. Said Fabian, "Erik Larsen and Ron Lim are the champion wrappers in the Living Mummy Wrap, and Tom DeFalco is the best living mummy we've ever had." Actually, Fabian, we've been saying the same thing about Tom for years!

MARVEL® TRIVIA QUIZ

We know we're taking a risk here—we know there are those of you so deep into comics continuity that the only reason you're aware of the passage of time is that our issue numbers change! So by presenting an Avengers trivia quiz just one month after our last Avengers quiz, we realize we may be tampering with the delicate fabric of space-time itself! But due to popular demand ("Popular" Tom Daning, our assistant editor here at MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE), here it is—a new set of twelve trivia teasers on Earth's Mightiest Heroes! Answers, as always, on page 32.

—Brian Nelson

1. The mutant crisis known as Inferno had a cataclysmic effect on what longtime enemies of the Avengers?
   A) the Lava Men
   B) the Lethal Legion
   C) the Executioner and the Enchantress
   D) Jim and Tammy Faye Bakker

2. Who has never been a chairman of the Avengers?
   A) the Vision
   B) the Wasp
   C) Captain Marvel
   D) Hercules

3. The assemblers were helpless bystanders at the apparent destruction of what landmark of Marvel Universe geography?
   A) Four Freedoms Plaza
   B) the Savage Land
   C) Krakoa, the Living Island
   D) 666 Fifth Avenue

MARVEL® TOP TEN

Rosalyn Romero of Fort Lee, NJ, writes, "Dear Casey, When I was a little girl, I was dating a boy named Jason. Jason drowned in a camping accident when he was 8. Ten years later, Jason came back from the dead, and went on a horrible killing spree. Then Jason died again. Then he was struck by lightning and came back to life. Now Jason and I are together again. He went to so much trouble to be with me, I never want to be apart from him. Please print for me now the Top Ten Marvel Comics in the Direct Sales market for May, 1990."

Rosalyn, we couldn't turn down a request like that. You and Jason obviously love each other very much. He's a lucky guy to have you stick by him all these years. Here now is your request, as compiled by our Vice President/Direct Sales, Carol Kalish.

1. X-MEN ANNUAL #14
2. X-MEN #263
3. X-MEN #264
4. AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #334
5. AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #335
6. WOLVERINE #26
7. WOLVERINE #27
8. X-FACTOR ANNUAL #5
9. X-FACTOR #56
10. PUNISHER #35

ITEM! No one's ever accused GHOST RIDER scripter Howard Mackie of having a flaming skull, but that certainly seemed to be the case one day here at Marvel, when visitors to Howard's office were greeted by this most unusual sight. Howard didn't show up for work one day, so his quick-thinking assistant Len Kaminski substituted this spirit of vengeance in his place. No one caught on that it wasn't the real McCoy (or Mackie, as the case may be), until the substitute started roasting people's souls with hellfire, and condemning them to the pits of hades for all eternity. Fortunately for everyone, the real Howard eventually showed up and sent the spirit on its way. Len apologized for the misunderstanding, and promised that he would probably do it again some day.

ITEM! Can Marvel Super Heroes save the Earth? Sure, we all know they can save the fictional comics universe, but what about the real world we all live in? Well, they're doing their bit to help. This summer, a host of Marvel heroes are featured in a laser light show called "LISTEN TO THE WHALES: Can Super Heroes Save the Earth?" Among the characters who appear in the show are the Hulk, Silver Surfer, Namor, Spider-Man, She-Hulk, the Watcher, and the Red Skull. The show is starting off in a limited engagement on the West Coast, and will gradually make its way across the country. The show will be at Pacific Science Center in Seattle until Sept. 3, at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry in Portland from Sept. 8 through Nov. 18. The show moves East for the summer to the Buhl Science Center in Pittsburgh, PA. So if you want to do your part to help save the whales, and see your favorite super heroes converted into laser beams, don't miss out on this multi-media extravaganza!

4. The Avengers' female members Tigra, the Wasp, and the She-Hulk were the idols of the young heroine of *The Aladdin Effect* Graphic Novel:
   A) Amber
   B) Nita Prentiss
   C) Holly-Ann Ember
   D) Cindy Brady

5. Egghead sent which edition of the Masters of Evil after the Avengers?
   A) Melter, Unicorn, Porcupine, Eel
   B) Whirlwind, Moonstone, Scorpion, Tiger Shark
   C) Red Rajah, Cobalt Man, Taskmaster, Enchantress
   D) John, Paul, George, Ringo

6. The Avengers stymied the plans of the crime cartel Zodiac to kill every New Yorker born under the sign:
   A) Gemini
   B) Capricorn
   C) Pisces
   D) Maternity Ward

7. Which man once intervened to prevent the Avengers from invading Latveria and foiling the plans of Dr. Doom?
   A) Jimmy Carter
   B) Nelson Rockefeller
   C) Henry Kissinger
   D) Lech Walesa

8. The Kree-Skrull War ended with which Avenger still lost in space?
   A) Hawkeye
   B) Quicksilver
   C) Starfox
   D) Will Robinson

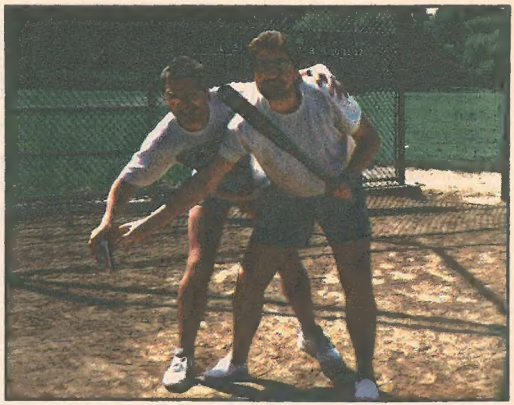
9. Which Avenger was NOT a member of the all-woman team called the Lady Liberators?
   A) Hellcat
   B) the Black Widow
   C) the Wasp
   D) the Scarlet Witch

10. Who earned his membership in the Avengers by rescuing the defeated team from the hands of the Grimm Reaper?
    A) Hawkeye
    B) the Swordsman
    C) the Black Panther
    D) the Black Widow

11. Cap, Hawkeye, Pietro and Wanda were the first to take the battle with Kang home to the future, where they met Kang's starcrossed love:
    A) Siryn
    B) Nebula
    C) Ravonna
    D) Kanga

12. Which enemy faced Earth's mightiest heroes FIRST?
    A) Wonder Man
    B) the Space Phantom
    C) Immortus
    D) the New York City Zoning Commission

ITEM! In more non-athletic DC news, Marvel trounced DC in our first softball game against them this year. The score was a convincing 13-3 victory. Marvel's team captain, Evan "Mookie" Skolnick, who designed the really cool Punisher t-shirts for the Marvel team, said that DC was dealt a "humiliating, crushing defeat." Marvel's MVP for the game was hard-hitting Ed Lazellari of the production department, who went 4 for 5, including one home run, and whose defensive skills proved invaluable. Evan also gave high marks to "the effortless catching of (Assistant Editor) Eric Fein." There are two more Marvel/DC games scheduled for this summer, and Captain Skolnick said that if Marvel doesn't sweep all three DC games this year, he will eat a softball! Evan is so confident in the Marvel team, he feels they can't lose! But will this over confidence prove his undoing? Keep your eyes peeled to these pages for further details!



PROFILE: PAUL RYAN

Marvel freelance credits (past): THING, IRON MAN, SQUADRON SUPREME Limited Series, ETERNALS Limited Series, DP7, NIGHTMASK, KICKERS, THOR Graphic Novel, G.I. JOE, SQUADRON Graphic Novel.
Marvel freelance credits (present): AVENGERS, AVENGERS WEST COAST, MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS (Wolverine)
My place of birth is: Somerville, Massachusetts
People who knew me in high school thought I was: A little strange (no, not a midget Sorcerer Supreme, just a tad odd!)
My hobbies are: Let's get real! I'm doing two team books a month. Who has time for hobbies!? Past hobbies were: horseback riding, Karate, weight training, fencing and archery!
My pet peeves are: Kept in a little cage in the basement and only allowed out on Halloween.
My favorite performers are: Sarah Brightman, Jane Olivier, Mel Gibson, Michelle Pfieffer.
The last good book I read was: *The Hunt for Red October*
The last good movie I saw was: *Back to the Future III*
If they were making a movie of my life, I'd like to see my part played by: Tom Hanks
My oddest habit is: Drawing comics for a living.
My greatest accomplishment outside the comics field is: Getting into the comics field (Never say die!)
The reason I got into comics was: A burning passion to tell epic stories, through illustrations, that began at the tender age of four. Unfortunately I chose the wrong surfaces around the house upon which to express my creativity and got smacked for it. Thank goodness I discovered paper in time to insure my continued existence.
The biggest influences on my work include: Hal Foster, Curt Swan, Gil Kane, John Buscema, Neal Adams, John Byrne, and Bob Layton.
The single work of which I am most proud is: The SQUADRON SUPREME Graphic Novel.
My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comics field is: To write and illustrate an Epic science-fiction series based on characters I created for a Charlton Tryout book back in 1983.
The worst part of my job is: Having to make up for time lost by writers who turn plots in late.
When nobody's looking I like to: Have shadow duels with my swords.
The one thing I really want the world to know about me is: Where to send my fan mail (what's that, Howard? I don't have any fans!?). Oh, never mind! Deep depression, heavy on the humility!

This month I couldn't come up with a topic worthy of a full-blown column (give me a break, I'm in the midst of the biweekly summer crunch!), so instead I'm going to answer an assortment of Reader Mail, some of which (but not all) addresses topics covered in previous Remarks.

Appropriately enough, let's start with an inquiry about Marvel's fan mail itself. Charles S. Novinskie of Grand Junction, CO writes, "Who sorts all of the fan mail? Who reads all of the letters sent to a particular book? When a letter is addressed to a particular person, does he receive it? Who decides which letters get printed and who writes the answers? And finally, can a letter addressed to Marvel contain multiple letters to various titles?" Here's the scoop, Charles. The mail is sorted by Marvel's mailroom and the stacks are delivered unopened to the appropriate editors' offices. There an editorial assistant will usually open the mail and throw away the envelopes. (A number of letter writers must think their letters and envelopes are inseparable entities and forget to put their addresses on the letter itself. Letters themselves without addresses will not be published by Marvel.) The mail is then given to the editor to peruse if he or she so desires. The editor passes the mail along to the letters page writer (often but not always the writer of the title in question) to select the letters for printing and to write first draft responses. Unless otherwise requested, the mail remains the property of the letters page writer. The editor then edits the responses so they're in keeping with his or her office's particular style. If a letter is addressed to an editor, it is delivered to that editor. If it is addressed to a freelancer, it will be delivered to a special file for freelance mail and if unclaimed after a certain interval will be forwarded to that person by one of the editorial secretaries. If an envelope contains multiple letters, you take a gamble that the letter-opener will see to it the appropriate parties get the mail and that it will be filed with the rest of that book's mail. All clear? Good. Let's move on . . .

Alan M. Dionne of Rockville, MD addresses the Reader-as-Editor Concept: "The only time I've ever seen it work was when Wonder Man lost his Xmas tree costume a few years ago. In the last 17 years, most of the suggestions and threats in the Marvel letters pages have gone unheeded, at least from my experience — I can't read everything! The best way for a reader to edit comics is with his almighty wallet. If he doesn't like a comic, he stops buying it. End of story. I've used this method myself from time to time. Is there a better, less drastic way? The answer unfortunately is no. When it looked like Hank Pym was going to commit suicide at the end of one issue of WEST COAST AVENGERS a few years ago, it prompted a flood of letters pro and con. To what purpose? By the time the issue went on sale printing these letters, the issue determining Hank Pym's fate was already on the stands for months. Clearly, readers are reactive editors rather than proactive editors like you. This reactive thesis has soured me on the idea of letter-hacking. There's no feeling of power, you know?" Well, Alan, far be it from me to try to change your opinion, but I can tell you from personal experience that reader feedback has influenced me as both a writer and an editor on numerous occasions. No, not on resolutions to short-term subplots, but on future storylines and character developments. It was reader reaction that convinced me to make Diamondback a regular supporting cast member in CAPTAIN AMERICA, to give one example. It was one person's letter asking me the thought-provoking question "If the Super-Soldier Serum is some sort of a drug, doesn't that make Cap an advocate of better living through drug use?" that prompted me to explore that question in my seven-part biweekly summer storyline. Although no writer or editor determines storylines and developments strictly by popular consensus, individual letters can make and have made a difference.

And speaking of consensus, the three letters I received on the subject of mass crossovers (see MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #79) all agree that they have gotten too bloated and should be scaled down. Neil A. Ottenstein of Lanham, MD says "There are so many crossovers going on these days that self-contained single-issue stories are very refreshing. Please have Marvel put a restraining order on these crossovers, none of which is more than five parts.

Next we have two letters responding to my column on the various "ages" of comics back in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #73. Adam Schultz of Satellite Beach, FL accepts the terms I've coined for the post-Silver Age comics, but refines some of the demarcation dates I used. Adam's divisions go like this. . . The Golden Age: 1938-1954 (when Frederick Wertham's "Seduction of the Innocent" was published — I chose 1951). The Silver Age: 1956-1970 (when Stan Lee gave up most of his writing chores to Marvel's second generation — I chose 1968). The Bronze Age: 1970-1977 (the release of the movie "Star Wars" — I chose 1976). The Iron Age and Heroic Age Adam was as hazy on as I was — it's too recent to determine perhaps. Anthony Corn of West Union, OH prefers different terminology than what I copped from the Greek philosopher Hesiod. He concludes the Golden Age early to make room for "The E.C. Age" (1946-1954). He subdivides the Silver Age in 1961 to give the Marvel Age its due. He terms 1970-1978 the Dark Age of Comics because of alleged poor sales. 1978-1986 he credits as the Heroic Age, when comics regained their mass popularity. In 1986, he believes the Bronze Age to have begun, with a greater proliferation of titles than ever. Thanks for your input, men — seems like we still don't have a consensus what age we're in!

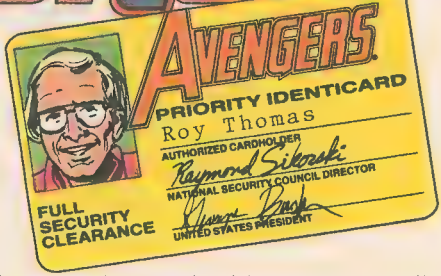
Next we have a few people nominating their favorite cosmic stories to be placed in the ten spot on my Ten Most Cosmic Stories Marvel Ever Published list in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #80 and 81. Bradford R. Poston of Tucson, AZ picks the Janus-Dracula-Satan story in TOMB OF DRACULA #61-71 for its "candid exploration of religion." Timothy J. Frick chooses the Death of Thanos story in AVENGERS ANNUAL #7/MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE ANNUAL #2 for its introduction of Lord Chaos and Master Order. Steven Weinberg of Germantown, TN nominates the That Which Endures storyline from AVENGERS WEST COAST #47-49. And finally Myron Gruenwald of Oshkosh, WI selects SECRET WARS II #1-9, a storyline which culminates in a new Big Bang. (Dad, we're going to have to stop meeting like this — the readers are getting suspicious.)

Finally, two readers have added to my list of Great Unanswered Mysteries from MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #75. LeRoy D. Davis asks, "Just how old are the Watchers? What is their purpose in the scheme of things? Are they older than the Elders? Are they the first race of beings born in this incarnation of the universe?" I happen to know that a certain new title featuring a cosmic hero will grapple with some of these mysteries next month in case you're interested, LeRoy. And finally, John Habermas of St. Clair Shores, MI writes me, "In response to your question, 'Are there any great Marvel mysteries anymore?' I have found the biggest one of all. The mystery: How can an uncreative hack writer such as yourself make a living in a comic industry targeting mature readers? It's been a mystery among my circle of friends for quite a few years now. We could do a better job in our sleep — and often do." Well then, John, all I can say to you and your friends is "Sweet dreams!"

— Mark Gruenwald

AVENGERS WEST COAST™

ROY THOMAS



It's official. Roy Thomas will be the writer for AVENGERS WEST COAST. Since Roy himself is a resident of Southern California, and based there, he feels he can bring some much needed authenticity to the book. Roy wants to get more of the Los Angeles atomosphere into the book.

"I've been trying to provide the artist, Paul Ryan, with reference," said Roy. He points out that many comics based in L.A. usually wind up looking like New York with palm trees.

Who will be the Avengers on the west coast? "We did have a few too many characters," Roy admits. He says the team's lineup is still uncertain, but most of the characters will still be around for awhile.

Wonder Man is one of the more popular members of the team. Roy plans to play up Wonder Man's career as an actor, which will both create problems and have an upside as well. "I'd like to use that for the Hollywood aspect of things," he said.

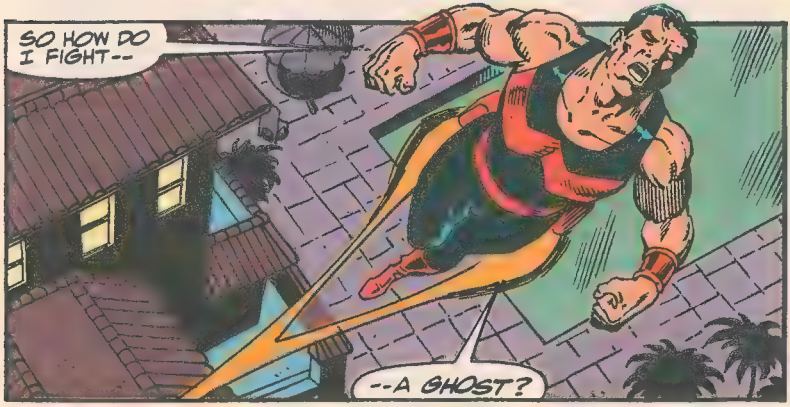
Now that they've discovered they still have some feelings for each other, "Hank Pym (Dr. Pym) and Janet Van Dyne (The Wasp) will probably take a leave of absence for a little while to see how things are going to work out between them." Where that will lead, Roy couldn't say. He did say that they could return at any time.

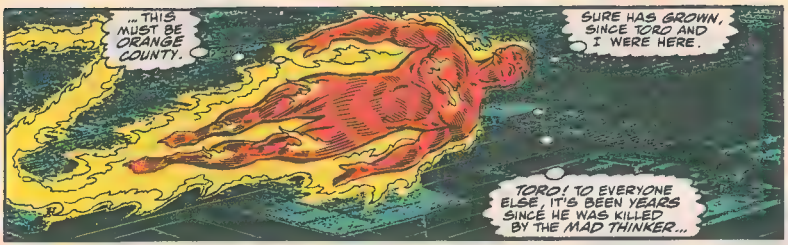
Of course, since Iron Man is based on the west coast, he'll be sticking around. But Roy notes, he'll be "sort of in and out. He's got a lot of other things going. He appears in just about every Marvel comic I see nowadays."

Hawkeye will be returning as of issue #60. Mockingbird will still be in the Midwest trying to get the Great Lakes Avengers together, so Hawkeye will be going back and forth between the two.

As for the rest of the members. "USAgent is still being thrust upon them." Roy said. "And certainly the Scarlet Witch will stay as a member."

"Quicksilver will probably hang around for awhile," he added. Whether Quicksilver will become a regular member again or not is still up in the air. The reason he is still around is to look after his sister, the Scarlet Witch. Wanda, you'll remember, was held captive within the clutches of Immortus' mind control (chronicled in the pages




... THIS MUST BE ORANGE COUNTY.
SURE HAS GROWN, SINCE TORO AND I WERE HERE.
TORO! TO EVERYONE ELSE, IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE HE WAS KILLED BY THE MAD THINKER...

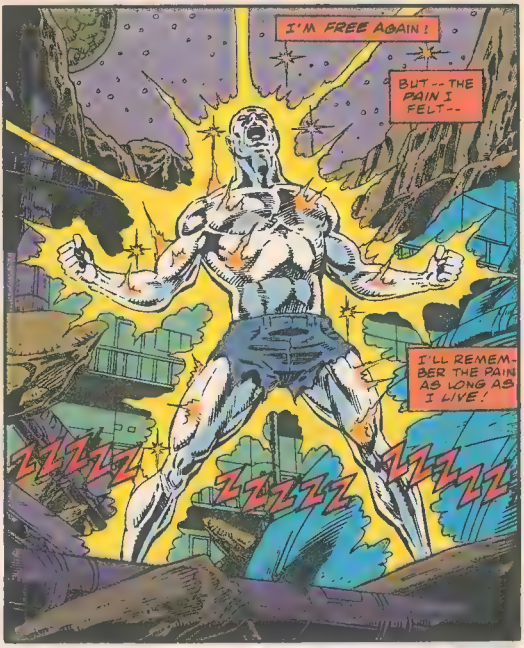
of AVENGERS WEST COAST last year).

And what of Tigra? The last time we saw her, she had been taken by the bestial cat side of herself, and Dr. Pym had shrunk her. "We're doing something in an AVENGERS SPOTLIGHT," says Roy, "that will wind up the various plot threads with her." After that, Tigra will definitely be back. But whether she remains as a member hasn't been decided.

According to Roy, The Human Torch may stay with the group or go off. He'll be facing a new character called the Living Lightning. "The Living Lightning is vaguely related to the group that appeared about twenty-three years ago in the Hulk," notes Roy. "It was a minoir 'Hydra-type' group." The Living Lightning is a member of that group who gains electrical powers and becomes something of an electrical version of the Human Torch.

The Torch will decide to stay with the group at that time. Roy says, however, since he's been revived he's been wandering around trying to decide how to fit into this modern world, and has not seemed like a regular member of the team. Not only that, but Ann Raymond, the wido of Toro, is still hanging around.

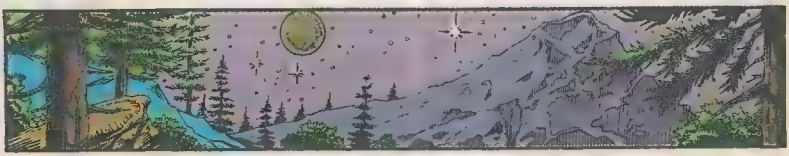
What sort of trouble will the group be getting into? The return of Wonder Man's brother—The Grim Reaper. "We're picking up on the fact that he did die," Roy reveals, "but he comes back to life." His scythe will now be permanently grafted to his hand. In order to continue his "living dead existence, he will now have to use his scythe to kill people and drain their life energy. "If he doesn't do that every twenty-four hours or so," said Roy, "he'll begin weakening and pass out of existence entirely. So he really is a grim reaper now."



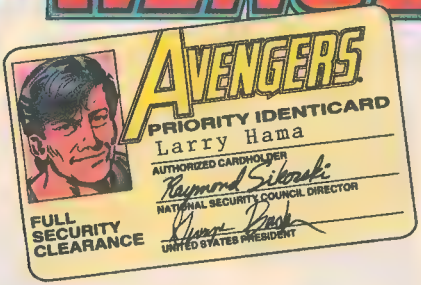
The Reaper still has a love/hate relationship with Wonder Man, although Roy points out that Wonder Man is probably the only thing he really does care about. Nekra and the real Ultron will probably also figure into this storyline.

Besides wrapping up the various loose plot threads, Roy says most of the plans for the team aren't settled yet. One of the things the team will be talking about is that they don't have a chairperson. "But," said Roy rascally, "they're going to have to decide on one."

—*Gary Barnum*



AVENGERS™



Larry Hama

How will you know when Larry Hama takes over writing the AVENGERS? Well, his first issue will open when a black super hero shows up at an Avengers headquarters and asks Captain America, "Why they don't have any righteous African-American members on the Avengers," Larry says. Larry hopes to incorporate the character, who for the moment is called Rage either as a regular Avenger or as a reserve member of the super-group.

"Everybody brings in a black character and it has to be a nice guy," Larry said. "But this guy is a cross between Marvin Hagler and Malcolm X. He'll be really hard to like . . .but he'll be all right."

Larry says he is often approached by Marvel fans at conventions who ask him the same question. Why are there so few active Black, Asian, Hispanic, or American Indian super heroes?

The Avengers will have to look at the way they perceive Rage, and ask themselves if it is him they object to at first, or if it is that Rage violates some notions they have about what a super hero is supposed to be. "That's the interesting question to me," Larry said. "For me it's a more interesting question than can an immortal die on the 15th Astral Plane."

Not many writers in comic books begin a series asking this kind of question, but then again, Larry Hama is not known for asking the conventional questions. For the past 10 years, Larry has been writing the G.I. JOE monthly comic book, and has recently been working on WOLVERINE. In his twenty years writing comic books, Larry has rarely worked on books which take place in the Marvel Universe, with the exception of Iron Fist in the 1970's he has worked on CONAN THE BARBARIAN, and G.I. JOE, which both take place in their own worlds.

But when Larry takes over penning the Avengers' adventures, he wants to bring the team into a whole new era, where they will face new challenges.

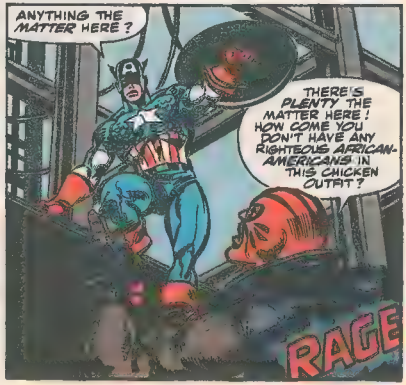
"I don't think I want to read another story where Kang the Conqueror comes back," Larry said. "When the Thing and the Torch battled Kang in 1967 I thought it was boring. What's the point of resurrecting a character pertaining to 30, 40, 50 years ago?"

One of Larry's first decisions was to begin working on new villains to pit the Avengers against. He says that the Avengers need a new crop of villains who are powerful enough to warrant siccing the seven-member team, which includes some mighty powerful members, against them.

"We need real Avengers villains, rather than stealing other characters' villains: definitely villains who are not solely interested in doing silly things like destroying the Avengers' house," Larry said.

The United States National Security Council have helped Larry out in that regard. According to Larry, the NSC

JUST LIKE I THOUGHT! I'M GETTING THE SAME OLD RUNAROUND!
BEST STEP ASIDE, OLD MAN --I'M COMING THROUGH WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT!
I SAY! THIS IS MOST INTOLERABLE!


ANYTHING THE MATTER HERE?
THERE'S PLENTY THE MATTER HERE! HOW COME YOU DON'T HAVE ANY RIGHTEOUS AFRICAN-AMERICANS IN THIS CHICKEN OUTFIT?
RAGE

IN THE AVENGERS' NEW HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX, STILL UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN NEW YORK CITY...
VERILY, FAIR SERSI, THOU HAST SUMMONED THE SEARING WIND OF MUSPEHEIM TO FIRE THY MYSTIC FORGE!
NOTHING QUITE AS DRAMATIC AS A HOT BREEZE FROM THE ASGARDIAN REALM OF FIRE DEMONS, THOR...

has recently decided to turn the Avengers loose as a branch of the federal government, which they had been a part of since the 1960's.

The official story of the feds' decision was that the Avengers were cut as a part of the 1990 federal budget, and the group was not submitting paperwork on time.

But behind the scenes, the U.S. decided to cut the Avengers loose as part of the Strategic Arms Limitations II talks with the Soviet Union in 1989. Larry explains that the Soviets do not have a super group comparable to the Avengers. Sure, they have the People's Protectorate, but that team does not have a god, at least not one like Thor.

Also, the Soviets resented the group's present chairman Captain America, known for his extreme right-wing views, Larry said.

So the Avengers will move on to become a wing of the United Nations, and their charter is being amended to provide for the change.

Larry also said that with their change is international jurisdiction, the Avengers will face villains which threaten the world. He said he is also paving the way a for Soviet super hero to join the team in the near future.

While Larry is letting some elements of the "real world" slip into the Marvel Universe, he says comic books have always been inspired in some ways by current events.

"Where all this springs from depends on its time. You've got the Red Skull and Captain America (from the World War II era 1940's), then the red menace (with groups like SHIELD), then you had these nuclear fears, where people were bitten by radioactive spiders (the ol' web-head, Spider-Man), or exposed to radioactivity (the Hulk, the Fantastic Four)," Larry said.

"Gone are the days when some kid could walk into a cave and be given a secret word by an alien to turn him into a super hero (as we hear characters from another company have been created)," he continued.

"People's rationale for super heroes has to change," Larry explained. While Larry is planning some changes in the Avengers' charter to bring it more up-to-date, he said he plans to work more on the context the group lives in.

"The Avengers do this, not because they just like to bash super-beings, but because they have a higher calling," Larry said. He says their reason for existing as a group is an ethical and moral one. He plans to raise a lot of questions about why the Avengers have stayed together as a group for so long, and do it in action-packed stories every month.

—John A. Salerno

MARVEL MASTERWORKS™

So you want relief from the sweltering summer sun! How about diving into the coolest classic Marvel stories this side of Iceman's personal collection. Just check out the upcoming additions to the MARVEL MASTERWORKS series. Okay, so it ain't a tall glass of lemonade, but it will satisfy your thirst for action and adventure.

Marc McLaurin, Managing Editor of MARVEL MASTERWORKS, clued us in on these next four long-awaited packages. Another FANTASTIC FOUR volume will be released, reprinting issues #21-30 and Annual #1 of the World's Greatest Comic Magazine in one 224 page extravaganza. It was with these stories that Stan Lee and Jack Kirby really hit their stride. Among the highlights are Nick Fury's first contemporary (non-World War II) appearance in a Marvel Comic, before he became an Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D. (he worked for the C.I.A.). You'll thrill to the first appearance of the Hate Monger, and be shocked at his true identity. You'll see the Incredible Hulk take on the ever-lovin' blue-eyed Thing in a wild donnybrook that set the standard for super hero battles to come. This story also features the FF's first meeting with the Avengers. You'll also see the quartet's first meeting with Marvel's mightiest mutants, the Uncanny X-Men, as they have to contend with the Puppet Master, the Mad Thinker. . . and each other.

Next up in the MASTERWORKS series, is a volume devoted to the X-MEN, issues #101-110. Within these 224 pages you'll witness the awesome first appearance of Phoenix! Our merry mutants must also contend with Black Tom Cassidy, Juggernaut, the mystery of Mutant X, the Hellfire Club, and former Galactus herald Firelord. The stories are written by Chris Claremont with art by Dave Cockrum, John Byrne and Terry Austin.

And what better way to celebrate the new Captain America movie or Cap's 50th anniversary than with a whopping 270 pages of CAPTAIN AMERICA, reprinting stories from TALES OF SUSPENSE #59-80? The first story is a non-stop action treat for the senses, as Cap takes on a veritable army of armored foes, dispatching them with karate, muscle power and agility, dodging bullets, tossing them across the very comic book panels themselves. In other stories Cap battles communist agents in Vietnam (at a time when it wasn't common to set super hero stories within that conflict), and the insidious villainy of the Red Skull and his Sleeper robots. There will also be a retelling of Cap's origin. It's action and drama as only befitting the Sentinel of Liberty, and as only Jack (King) Kirby could render it.

Stan Lee's first five fantastic issues of the original SILVER SURFER series will also be collected into a MARVEL MASTERWORKS volume. These double-length stories total over 220 pages of Stan the Man's most beautiful writing, including the classic first appearance of Mephisto! Many regard these stories to be the high point of Stan's career to date. Add to that John Buscema's incredible art, and you have sheer perfection.

All volumes of MARVEL MASTERWORKS will be vividly recolored and reseparated on high gloss paper. Each will be encased in a dust cover with that excellent border artwork included on all the volumes by Sandy Plunkett and Tom Palmer. Each will also have an introduction by Stan, the man, himself.

The first of these volumes to be released will be the X-MEN in September, followed by the FANTASTIC FOUR in October, CAPTAIN AMERICA in November and ending (just in time for the holidays) with the SILVER SURFER in December. But MARVEL MASTERWORKS are not just great gifts, they're a necessary part of every serious Marvel fan's collection. To buy the original editions of these comics would cost a fortune, but leave it to Marvel to bring you high quality at a price you can afford.

So, true believers, update those Christmas lists today. MARVEL MASTERWORKS are on the way!

—Mitch Tart

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hi, Heroes!

If you wanna know who loves ya, just ask yourself what other nut would be sitting at his computer on the hottest day of the year, when the air conditioning isn't working, typing these tender little tidbits of news and nonsense for the edification and elightenment of the hallowed hordes of Marveldom Assembled!

By the way, have you ever noticed that air conditioners only break down during heat waves when you need 'em? I wonder how they manage to program that into the temperamental little devils? And, to make things worse, they probably charge us extra for that ginchy little feature!

But, 'tis time to press on. Surely we have far weightier matters to discuss than the fact that, though I'm melting in front of your eyes, I'm nevertheless determined that Simon Legree Salicrup shall have his Soapbox, without which MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE would surely be lacking the legendary luster that hath made it the icon it is today!

By the way, I hope that any students of the art of obfuscatory writing have been taking copious notes. Never has so much been written about so little. Just wanted to prove I haven't lost the touch!

Now, onward! Our first meaningful item is to remind you that four new MARVEL MASTERWORKS are going on sale even as you read these sterling though semi-sententious sentences. They consist of a continuation of the highly-acclaimed X-MEN series as well as the next issue of the fabulous FANTASTIC FOUR series. But we wouldn't be your benevolent Bullpen unless we tossed in a couple of other exciting goodies for you as well! So stand by for the start of two new titles in the most prestigious set of comic book literature ever presented! The first of our premier presentations is none other than everyone's favorite star-spangled red-white-and-blue sentinel of liberty, the ever popular CAPTAIN AMERICA, celebrating his fiftieth anniversary as one of the world's most famous and most beloved super heroes!

The second spellbinding super hero to appear in MARVEL MASTERWORKS for the very first time is probably one of the most beloved characters in comic books. No, I'm not referring to Ben Grimm's Aunt Petunia, although that wasn't a bad guess, Charlie. I'm alluding to the most sensational space-spanning superstar of all, a guy who'll never win a prize for being The Best-Dressed Man of the Year, but still manages to grab his share of attention when he enters a room—or a new galaxy! Of course, I can mean no one else but that glistening, gleaming, cosmic-powered cornucopia of virtue and valor, the sagatious star-gazer with the ultimate haircut—The splendiforous SILVER SURFER!

But, into every life a little rain must fall. Up until this very moment, I've been unstinting in my efforts to be the purveyor of naught but good news with which to dazzle and delight you. However, the time is come to lay some heavy woe upon thee. I know you'll accept what I'm about to tell you with the heroism and fortitude for which the ranks of Marveldom are so justly renown.

Last month, in a fit of wild exuberance and unrestrained enthusiasm, I told you that Marvel's latest and greatest new project, the long-awaited MARVEL WORLD OF *TOMORROW* would go on sale before Christmas of this year, as our special gift to the world at large—which may or may not deserve it! However, the fates have decreed otherwise! Here's what happened . . .

Our stalwart sales department informed me that Marvel has a large number of special issues going on sale at the Christmas season. They fear that something as powerful as THE MARVEL WORLD OF *TOMORROW* might be such a sensation that it may overshadow some of our other projects. Or, even worse, due to the proliferation of our other pandemonious publications, some readers may be unable to find their copy THE MARVEL WORLD OF *TOMORROW!*

Well, to make a long story short, which is something I've never been especially noted for, we all put our heads together—which must have been a sight to behold!—and decided to postpone the on-sale date of THE MARVEL WORLD OF *TOMORROW* until the beginning of 1991! We felt it would be the best New Year's present we could give you, and after the slight letdown feeling which always accompanies the month after Christmas, it might be just what the comic book world needs!

So there you have it—a rare glimpse of the thinking and planning and strategy that goes on at the highest levels of power within the mighty Marvel hierarchy. We know how shook-up you'll be at having to wait an extra month or two for your own precious copy of THE MARVEL WORLD OF *TOMORROW,* but we also know that you True Believers can take these things in stride, and, due to your unshakable faith and limitless compassion, we'll all be nobler and finer human beings because of the hardship and privation we must now endure!

Well, I'll have to wrap things up now because it's hard to write with tears in your eyes! So, until next ish, face front, hang by your thumbs, and whatever you do, wherever you go, never ever forget, "Au pays des aveugles les borgnes sont rois!"

Excelsior!

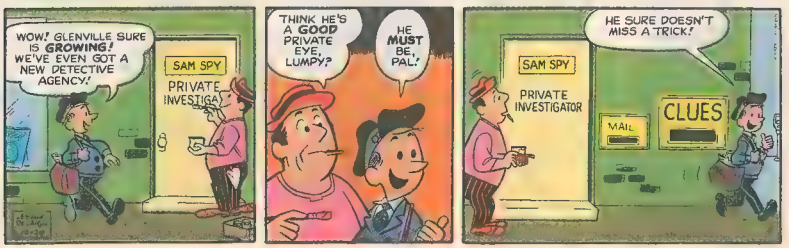
Stan

P.S.: In case I forgot to mention it earlier, the mag I was referring to is THE MARVEL WORLD OF *TOMORROW!*

WILLIE LUMPKIN

STAN AND DAN'S CLASSIC COMIC STRIP FROM THE FABULOUS FIFTIES

© 1990 by Stan Lee and Dan DeCarlo



WOW! IT'S HEMBECK TIME AGAIN!
COMING SOON?
THE LIL AVENGERS!

YEAH, RIGHT— HEMBECK HAS ABOUT AS MUCH CHANCE OF GETTING THIS TEAM PAST THE MARVEL BRASS AS I DO OF JOINING THE BIG AVENGERS!
(OH, IN CASE YOU COULDN'T FIND SUE STORM, SHE'S STANDING RIGHT NEXT TO HER BOYFRIEND, MASTER FANTASTIC—OR DIDN'T YOU SEE THE INVISIBLE GIRL?)

X-TRA THE MUTANT REPORT X-TRA

VOLUME 8 "THE NEXT STEP IN NEWS EVOLUTION" NUMBER 8

THE *OTHER* MUTANT BOOKS

All of you who follow MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE'S monthly Mutant Report are aware of Marvel's first line of mutant books: THE X-MEN, THE NEW MUTANTS, X-FACTOR, EXCALIBUR, and WOLVERINE. But you may not have realized that Marvel is publishing other series with a heavy emphasis on mutant characters as well. Three of them, ALPHA FLIGHT, CLOAK AND DAGGER, and the brand new NEW WARRIORS, are now being produced under the editorial auspices of Danny Fingeroth and his assistant, Eric Fein.

Danny has had a lot of experience dealing with mutant characters, having spent several years as Louise Jones Simonson's assistant when she was editing THE X-MEN. From there Danny moved on to become editor of the SPIDER-MAN titles, and after a few years of full-time freelance writing for Marvel, he has returned to the editorial ranks to take charge of three mutant books as well as MOON KNIGHT and some Epic projects. "It's great to be back," Danny says. "I'm enjoying working on all these books. They're a lot of fun."

ALPHA FLIGHT, the Canadian-based team of super heroes, has accumulated quite a large number of mutant cast members over the years. First of all, there are the two original members, Northstar and Aurora. But hey, weren't they revealed a few years back to be the children of an elf, and not mutants at all? "No, that was misinformation," Danny says. "Actually, in one of Jim Hudnall's last issues, one of the elves told Northstar that was an elf trick played on them to make them think they were elves." The other mutants now regularly featured in ALPHA FLIGHT are Persuasion (formerly the Purple Girl), Madison Jeffries, alias Box, Diamond Lil, Laura Dean, Goblyn, and a new character named Windshear.

Danny has put together a brand new creative team for ALPHA FLIGHT to give it a fresh new look to attract new fans to the book. The new writer is Fabian Nicieza, whom Danny describes as "one of the best new writers in the business. He's full of ideas." Danny's assistant, Eric Fein, adds, "He's got a very different take on super heroes." Danny explains, "He thinks the characters through deeply, but not so deeply that he loses the magic. I think he knows just how far to go and just how real to make them before you shatter the illusion."

The new penciler on ALPHA FLIGHT is Michael Bair. "He's really one of the up-and-coming talents," Danny reports. "He's putting his most serious effort of his career into this." And Mike Manley continues as ALPHA FLIGHT's inker. "Mike has really adapted his style to Mike Bair's art in a very dynamic way," Danny says.

The new team debuts with "Building Blocks," a four-part storyline running from issues #87 through 90. Jim Lee will do the covers, and all four issues will guest star Wolverine. Forge and Banshee of the X-Men will also show up, reinforcing ALPHA FLIGHT's ties to the other mutant books. "I would say we have more legitimate right to exploit Wolverine's commercial appeal than anybody," Danny says, laughing. "I think this is one of the few books where it isn't jammed in. Wolverine and Alpha Flight are intimately connected." In fact, in Wolverine's very first appearances he was working for the Canadian intelligence division that later became Alpha Flight. Wolverine is a longtime friend of Alpha Flight founder James MacDonald Hudson and his wife, Heather, its current leader, and would have become the head of Alpha Flight himself had he not quit to join the X-Men.

So what brings Wolverine back to the pages of ALPHA FLIGHT at this particular time? Danny explains, "In X-MEN Wolverine's worried about his own health and the condition of his powers." Wolverine is also concerned about the situations leading up to the forthcoming Mutant wars storyline in the principal mutant books. Hence, "Wolverine thinks that the world as he knows it might very well come to an end, certainly his life. So he's basically come to Canada to say goodbye. Of course, Heather thinks he's dead." So she is quite surprised to see him turn up alive, but she has a bigger shock in store. Her husband James, long thought to be dead, also turns up alive. "It's not a hoax, it's not a dream, it's not an imaginary story, and it's not a what if story," assures Danny. "James MacDonald Hudson, the original Guardian, is back, and, as you can imagine, that creates some interesting problems." And the villain of the storyline will be the Master, a familiar ALPHA FLIGHT nemesis from the series' early years.

In "Building Blocks," Danny says, "We're trying to focus on the purpose of Alpha Flight, both as regards the individual members and as a group. What's their direction? What's their purpose?

"We're orienting it to being a more mainstream super hero group. My metaphor for it is that the Toronto Bluejays are in Toronto, but they still play the New York Yankees the same number of times that every other team in the American League does. It'll still have a Canadian flavor, but it'll be very much part of the Marvel Universe." For example, Alpha Flight is appearing in the biweekly AVENGERS six-parter that Fabian wrote. Also, Doctor Doom and Kristoff, the false Doctor Doom, will be the villains in issue #91 of ALPHA FLIGHT, a story that will be followed by one that involves Doom's most frequent nemeses, the Fantastic Four.

The title characters of CLOAK AND DAGGER are also mutants, and here, too, Danny has put together a new creative team to try to broaden the series' appeal. "I think the characters have a lot of potential, so we're redirecting it." The new writer is Steve Gerber, who is working on a wide variety of projects for Marvel, including SHE-HULK, HAWKEYE in AVENGERS SPOTLIGHT, the new FOOLKILLER and LEGION OF NIGHT limited series, and a forthcoming MAN-THING graphic novel. Steve Gerber is taking it in the direction of horror and mysticism. Danny reports that Rick Leonardi, who pencils the series, "is doing really gorgeous work" on it, and DAREDEVIL's Al Williamson will be taking over as inker.

The first three issues by the new team comprise one storyline. "It involves neo-Nazis in New York City and a neo-Nazi training camp upstate. Steve has done a lot of research into various occult beliefs that Hitler and his coterie had. There's a lot of bizarre mystical stuff as only Steve Gerber can do it.

"It's going to be a real departure from where CLOAK AND DAGGER has been. Also, we're going to explore facets of Cloak's powers that were never explored before. I'd like to say once and for all what this guy can do. We're also going to be learning a lot more about the world inside the cloak. I think as soon as we get the new direction for Cloak and Dagger set, we will be getting some crossovers with other series.

"For those of you who were fans of the lighthearted, humorous CLOAK AND DAGGER adventures, I hope you'll stick around and see where the series is going, because it's pretty exciting. Everybody else, come on and check it out. Come back to CLOAK AND DAGGER."

Finally, there is the brand new series, THE NEW WARRIORS, which debuted only a few months ago. There are three mutants on the team: Namorita, the Sub-Mariner's cousin who frequently appears in NAMOR THE SUB-MARINER, Firestar, the star of her own limited series of a few years ago, and Marvel Boy, who is actually the modern day Marvel Universe version of Vance Astro, one of the GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY.

Asked what makes this series different from all the other teenage super hero team books, Danny replies, "It's got Fabian Nicieza writing it. Fabian's taken the teen team concept and really made it his own. Again, it's Fabian doing what he does best, which is combining the best of traditional Marvel with the best of modern trends plus his own unique point of view." The penciler is Mark Bagley, whose work has already been seen on projects ranging from DAREDEVIL and SPIDER-MAN ANNUALS to THE SAGA OF THE SERPENT CROWN. "Mark Bagley has really grown by leaps and bounds just over the last year or two." Al Williamson inked the first two issues, and he will be succeeded by Larry Mahlstedt, doing his first regular inking work for Marvel.

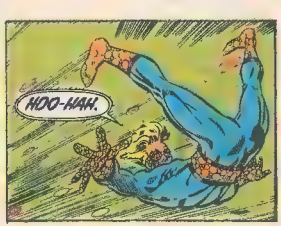
The Mad Thinker, a longtime adversary of the Fantastic Four, will be the guest villian of issue #3. Issue #4 introduces a new team of super-villains, the Psionex, and in issues #5 and 6 the New Warriors contend with the new Star-Thief. After that, in issues #7 and 8 the New Warriors go to South America to investigate an organization called Project Earth while at the same time tangling with the Punisher! And be on the lookout for the New Mutants to show up soon, too!

THE NEW WARRIORS will be concerned with contemporary issues, such as ecology, but Danny and Eric say that fans should not worry that the book will be preachy. "They don't stand around gabbing about issues. It's still a-dare I say it-hoohah Marvel comic," Danny promises.

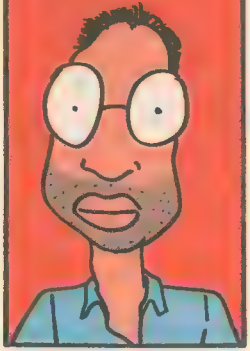
"I think that thanks to Fabian and Mark, the New Warriors is a viable team for the 1990s. I think they will be to the '90s what the Avengers were to the '60s. It's an intersection between gritty and fun. It's a reallly good book."

Each of these three books, ALPHA FLIGHT, CLOAK AND DAGGER, and THE NEW WARRIORS, stands on its own as a series, but Danny hopes to continue to deal with the links between these three books and the better known Marvel mutant series in the future. So those of you who want to keep up with all of Marvel's mutants should keep these three books in mind. There are more Marvel mutant books than you may have thought!

—Peter Sanderson



FABIAN NICIEZA Interview:



In MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #89, writer and new Marvel editor Fabian Nicieza, told us about THE NEW WARRIORS. Now hard working Fabian tells us what we can expect in the new CAPTAIN AMERICA Limited Series and ALPHA FLIGHT, and tells us a little about himself.

—Dwight Jon Zimmerman and James Frederick Nelson

What's the theme of the CAPTAIN AMERICA Limited Series?

It's the roots and origins of Captain America. We see his first adventure and his first meeting with the Red Skull, which happened in 1940. The Limited Series comes out just in time for Captain America's 50th anniversary. That was more by accident than by design.

What details can you give us?

Well, the CAPTAIN AMERICA Limited Series is a four-part bookshelf format series, written by me, penciled by Kevin Maguire, and inked by Joe Rubinstein, with full-color art by Paul Mounts. It takes place in 1940. The first book is basically Cap's origin. We're not changing anything, just revealing lots of things that haven't been shown. We used as our bible, the Roger Stern/John Byrne Captain America origin in CAP #245. That was the most complete telling of Cap's origin, but even in that story there are gaps. So Kevin and I sat down and answered a lot of questions people have had for a very long time about the origin of Captain America.

Can you give us some examples of the questions asked?

Why was Steve Rogers the only person chosen for the super soldier serum? The answer is that he wasn't the only person chosen. There was a whole list of candidates. We find out how Steve Rogers won. Why was he given a costume? We discover that reason. Why would the government allow Bucky to team up with Cap? We explain why that happened, how it happened, and most importantly, why Captain America needed Bucky. In doing so, we get a unique perspective on the character of Bucky.

You mentioned that you'll show Cap's first battle with the Red Skull.

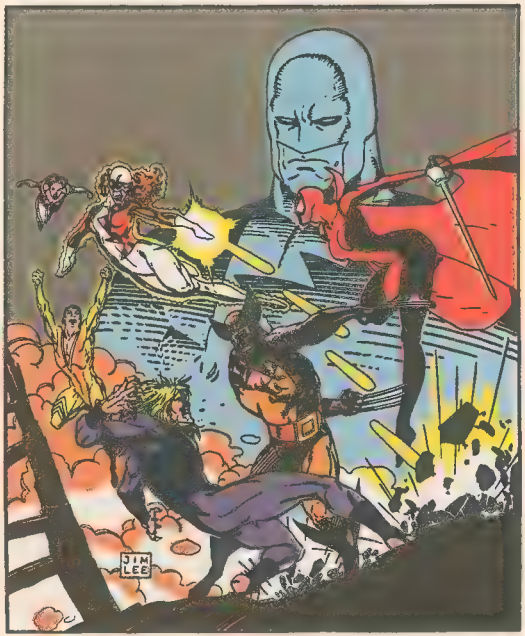
Yes, the big villain in the Limited Series is the Red Skull. We reveal a unique look at the relationship between the Red Skull and Captain America. We find out lots of things that the Red Skull had to do with the very creation of Captain America. As a result, we see some interesting psychological angles on the character of the Red Skull, and why Cap and the Red Skull will always need each other.

The Red Skull comes off really well in this Limited Series as a great evil, conniving maniacal 1940's movie serial

type of villain. In fact, for the Limited Series itself, we went for the feel of an Indiana Jones-like cliffhanger movie. Lots of action and adventure.

Tell us about the art.

Kevin's art is, in my estimation, without peer in the industry. He is just a wonder, able to make every character individual—his ability to depict human emotion is wonderful. And he's done some very exciting storytelling. I think the combination of Kevin Maguire and Joe Rubinstein on a project is pretty



much reaching perfection in super hero artwork.

Sounds great! And you're also pretty excited about ALPHA FLIGHT. What can we expect with Canada's super hero team?

What penciler Michael Bair, who is doing some dynamite work, and I have done in "Building Blocks" is torn the team apart, and over the course of four issues, begun to rebuild them. By the end of the saga, Alpha Flight will be working *with* the Canadian government, not for them. You see, we're approaching it from the outlook of "What if the United States government had the opportunity to create a superhuman group?"

What will be the result?

We'll see that Alpha Flight is not only a superhuman strike force, its also an organization designed to both promote the Alpha Flight team and protect the country. We'll see the entire Alpha Flight support group and the headquarters in Toronto. That headquarters will be big because it will have a scientific wing, an archeological wing, a supernatural studies wing, and a mechanical engineering wing.

We've heard a little about "Building Blocks" both in this interview and in the Mutant Report. What happens after that storyline?

How does Doctor Doom sound? After that, we have a two parter guest-starring the Fantastic Four. This storyline was suggested by a fan who told me he thought that he had never seen the Thing and Sasquatch fight. Aurora and Northstar are back, although they will be different in many respects. Aurora's powers are changing slightly as a result of the experiences she's gone through. She's not suffering with a split personality now, which will create problems because everyone is used to dealing with her as a person with a split personality. Aurora's mellowed out a lot, and she's reassessing her life's purpose, and her powers will reflect her new pacifist desires.

Now that we've got some background on some of your upcoming stories, why don't we find out more about you. How did you get started at Marvel?

Well, I was originally hired to work in manufacturing. Four months later, I moved to the production department as an Advertising manager. I was there for four years, and now I'm a Marvel editor.

You made the jump from advertising to editing. How was the transition?

It's really too early to tell. Both have pluses and minuses. Right now, I'm looking forward to trying to create interesting and unique projects.

What was your first freelance credit at Marvel?

My First freelance credit at Marvel was doing a MARVEL AGE interview with Stan Lee.I will cherish that assign ment, and still to this day, pay a small stipend to Jim Salicrup for the opportunity. It would be safe to say that without Jim, I would not be who, what, and where I am today.

You are one of Marvel's most prolific writers. Now with your new editing responsibilities, will you be able to keep turning out the good stories we've come to expect?

From having watched my fellow editors in action, I fully anticipate that I will have *MORE* time to goof off and write.

How did you first get interested in comics?

I came here from a foreign land, Argentina, in fact, and the most recognizable images were those of comic book characters, which I had been aware of in that faraway world. Comics helped me learn to read and write English, which explains why I am the way I am today.

Who are the influences on your work?

(Long pause) I am arrogant and pretentious enough to be completely incapable of answering that question. The truth of the matter is, the biggest influences on my work are my mortgage, my monthly rail pass, and supporting Lou Bank's nasty habits.

You mentioned earlier that you got some of your ideas from fans and questions people had. How important are readers' opinions and comments?

Comments are *very* important to me. I read every letter directed at any of the titles I write. I listen to their ideas, and prefer letters of constructive criticism. I hate No-Prize letters and letters of gushing praise—they bore me.

Where do you get your ideas?

The answer is very simple: Life, death, and everything in between.

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So you want action and adventure? You crave a tale with swashbuckling merriment and heroic deeds? Perhaps you're looking for a story of a distant land where corruption and thievery abound? If you've answered yes to any of these questions, be sure not to miss a new four issue limited series, FAFHRD AND THE GRAY MOUSER.

FAFHRD AND THE GRAY MOUSER is brought to you by the creative team of Howard (NICK FURY and WOLVERINE Graphic Novel) Chaykin and Mike (DR. DOOM and DR. STRANGE Graphic Novel) Mignola.

The story is based on the characters originally brought to life by noted science-fiction writer, Fritz Leiber. Howard Chaykin is no stranger to Fafhrd and Gray Mouser. Earlier on in his career he had the opportunity to work with Denny O'Neil in another adaptation of the Leiber novels as an artist. Howard, however doesn't remember that previous project very fondly. "Yeah, I'm sort of offering this current adaptation FAFHRD AND THE GRAY MOUSER as an apology," Howard said. "The one we did back then was so awful." But he assures us that this new version is sure to please.

In his latest collaboration with Mike Mignola, Howard feels that he has better represented the flavor and mood set by Fritz Leiber. "What Leiber was actually trying to do in his books was to recreate the corrupt state of New York City in the 1920's and 1930's," Howard explained. "What I've done is to install those same urban qualities in Fafhrd and Gray Mouser." Howard added that there are even subtle references to the recently defunct Ed Koch mayoral administration hidden throughout.

Capturing the look that Howard Chaykin wanted is a feat that Mike Mignola executes beautifully. "In Europe, Mike Mignola is one of the most important artists," says Howard. He finds it disheartening that Mike isn't as appreciated in the U.S. But that hasn't stopped Mike from rendering a stunning achievement in comic book/fantasy art.

The first installment of the FAFHRD AND THE GRAY MOUSER limited series is appropriately titled "III Met In Lankhmar." Our heroes first meeting is one of chance. Fafhrd and Gray Mouser are, unknown to each other, posing as statues, hiding from the evil Thieves Guild. As the Guild approaches they attack, revealing themselves not only to their enemies, but to each other. Joining forces, they beat back their common foes.

The plot thickens upon introduction of Fafhrd's fair lady Vlana. She tells Fafhrd of a personal vendetta she has for the leader of the Thieves Guild, the infamous Krovas. While working as a freelance thief apart from the Guild, Krovas ordered his men to reduce his

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competition by killing Vlana and her friends. Vlana escaped this grisly fate, but her cohorts did not. She now wants Fafhrd to bring her the head of Krovas.

Gray Mouser then invites Fafhrd and Vlana to his humble dwelling to meet his beloved, the Princess Ivrian. Mouser recounts how he slew Ivrian's evil father with sorcery while he was being tortured on the rack, and how she is forever betrothed to him. Vlana tells Ivrian of her vengeful plans for Krovas and the Thieves Guild. Ivrian convinces Gray Mouser to aid Fafhrd in this noble quest. The two men argue that thievery is their trade not murder. They reluctantly give in to the willful request of the women, however, and are on their way.

The real stars of FAFHRD AND THE GRAY MOUSER, though, are the characters themselves. "The term 'lovable rogues' doesn't have much meaning nowadays," says Howard, citing the generic use of the phrase for many fantasy characters, "but that's exactly what they are." Fafhrd and Gray Mouser are heroes in the most basic sense of the word, "but they're very interested in getting their cut as well." You can't help but like these two rascals. "The real charm is that Fafhrd and Gray Mouser are funnier and wittier than most other characters in science-fiction stories," notes Howard. "I don't like science-fiction/fantasy stories where the main character is nothing but a pandering barbarian wearing a jockstrap!" Howard has made sure you'll find none of that in his Fafhrd and Gray Mouser.

Masquerading as beggars, our heroes infiltrate the inner sanctum of the Thieves Guild. They witness some strange goings on be a dark sorcerer named Hristomilo. Just then they are found out and brought before Krovas. Gray Mouser makes an attempt to fast talk his way out, but to no avail. Seeing that talk is futile, Mouser unsheathes Scalpel, his sword and prepares for battle. Fafhrd does the same, wielding his mighty lance Gray Wand.

Will Fafhrd and Gray Mouser fight their way out of the Thieves Guild lair? Will Vlana ever have the head of Krovas? What is the secret of Hristomilo's power? We'll never tell! But come October you'll be able to see for yourself!

—Tom Daning

THE MANY FACES OF . . .

IRON MAN®

Over the years, ol' Shell-Head has gone through more suits of armor than the Knights of the Round Table. The following are some classic selections from the Iron Man collection.

—Barry Dutter

1. Gene Colan/Jack Abel (TALES OF SUSPENSE #78)
2. Don Heck/Frank Giacoia (IRON MAN #26)
3. Bob Layton (IRON MAN #126)
4. John Byrne/Terry Austin (IRON MAN #109)
5. Jim Starlin (IRON MAN #68)
6. Barry Windsor-Smith (IRON MAN #232)
7. Jack Kirby/Dick Ayers (AVENGERS #1)
8. Mark Bright/Joe Rubinstein (IRON MAN #212)
9. John Romita, Jr./Bob Layton (IRON MAN #256)
10. Jack Kirby/Sol Brodsky (TALES OF SUSPENSE #48)
11. Jackson Guice/Bob Layton (IRON MAN #234)
12. Walt Simonson (IRON MAN ANNUAL #8)
13. George Tuska/Frank Giacoia (IRON MAN #8)
14. Gil Kane/Klaus Janson (WHAT IF? Vol. 1, #3)
15. Bob Layton (IRON MAN #152)

ZORRO™

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From out of nowhere like a zepher, rides a masked hero zeroing in on villainy. Zapping tyranny with a zesty zig-zag swipe of his mighty sword. Zounds! With great agility, he swiftly zooms by would-be assailants, zealously leaving his mark. Mesmerized like zombies, enemies of justice flee, lest his lightning lance carve them like zucchini. Set upon Toronado, his trusty zebra, er, uh . . . that is, horse, he raises his sword to bask in the glory that is victory! Who is this mysterious stranger? Oh, c'mon, how obvious can a guy get?!

We hope that opening wasn't too "zany" for you. But we didn't want you to miss the fact that Zorro is here at Marvel!

ZORRO is a six issue limited series from Marvel U.K. and is the official comic book adaptation of the new ZORRO television series currently running on the Family Channel. Written by Ian Rimmer and drawn by Mario Capaldi, ZORRO offers action and adventure with a touch of comedy.

Fighting against the forces of tyranny, Zorro is pitted against his arch nemisis, the evil tyrant Alcalde. The Alcalde has devised a devious plot to enslave the townspeople of Los Angeles by subjecting them to an exorbitant tax. Those unable to pay are forced into slavery.

Many fans of this masked avenger will be surprised to find that this incarnation of Zorro is not invincible in either body or spirit. Editor, Steve White had this to say. "Don Diego (Zorro's civilian identity) must go through a lot of soul searching in the first issue. He falls from his horse while being chased by the Alcalde's men and is left for dead. After almost dying, he decides that his life as Zorro is too dangerous." But it isn't long before the heinous indignities perpetrated upon the people force Don Diego out of his brief retirement.

One of the more interesting characters in ZORRO is Felipe, a deaf mute taken in by Don Diego. Ian Rimmer cites one of the more exciting issues in this series as the one which reveals the origin of Felipe. "In issue number four, an evil plot to kidnap Felipe is exposed. And we get to see what he is all about."

Ian is very excited about this project, and is especially high on Mario Capaldi's art. "Mario, although he is not very well known in the states, is a very popular artist in the U.K. He is a long-time Zorro fan. In fact Zorro is one of his favorite characters. His work is great!"

The first issue of ZORRO is due out in late October. But remember the series only runs for six issues. So don't miss out, or you'll be wondering, "who was that masked man?"

—Tom Daning

THE MARVEL AGE® OF COMICS 1982

PART THREE

Super-teams had their problems in 1982 — their members were jailed, impregnated by alien killers, mutated into grotesqueries, and occasionally even finding their series canceled!

The sorest beset of Marvel teams was (You're surprised at this?) the Uncanny X-Men. Attacked by intergalactic nasties such as the Sidri Assassins, Deathbird, and the Brood, the not-so-merry mutants fought for Lilandra to regain her throne. Wolverine faced a horrific dilemma: if the Brood impregnated the X-Men with their alien hatchlings, then would Wolverine be forced to kill his own teammates? Only Logan's healing factor, after all could overcome the Brood's infection!

Both in the X-MEN ANNUAL and in their own book, Dracula sought to make Storm his vampire queen. And Belasco seized the infant Illyana, only to return her as a teenager whose best years had been lost to Limbo, and who might be tainted by an evil far beyond her innocent youth! And if that weren't enough, the menace of Rogue burst on the scene, in a knock-down drag-out with Wolverine and Carol Danvers that still has them nursing bruises!

Life was no cake walk for the AVENGERS, either. Yellowjacket, framed by the villainous Egghead, found himself both jailed and on the road to divorce with Janet Van Dyne. . . Who found sympathy for her plight in the romantic eyes of none other than Tony Stark! She-Hulk joined the team, to the wondering reactions of many Marvelites —she had yet to win credibility as a character, and her presence among Earth's mightiest heroes raised a few eyebrows.

But with Hawkeye rejoining the team, and the Silver Surfer and Black Knight guest-starring, the assemblers were never short for action. And the 1982 AVENGERS ANNUAL brought a team-up with the Defenders as well as the first-ever printing of the Avengers Charter, for all you completists out there!

Under the aegis of John Byrne, the FANTASTIC FOUR's lives kept changing, too—especially the Thing, who regressed to his original lumpy form. Johnny Storm lost his girlfriend to Galactus (tough sort of competition, there), as Frankie Raye assumed the name of Nova and became herald to the world-devourer! And Reed helped the Inhumans move to the Moon, just in time for the birth of Luna, child of Crystal and Quicksilver.

Byrne labored to make the FF the nexus of the Marvel Universe it had been in the 1960's, and he succeeded by peppering the series with guest shots from Spider-Man, Iron Man, Thor, Daredevil, the Black Panther, and Dr. Doom. But the most unexpected and delightful guest-shot of the year came with the character often mentioned but never seen in twenty years —Ben Grimm's own Aunt Pentunia! Va va va voom!

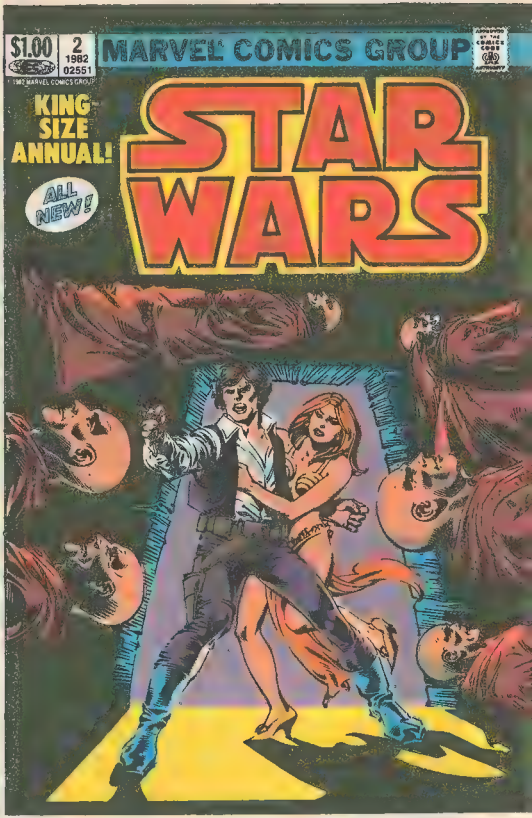
The FF also appeared in one of their most unusual crossovers ever, as DR. STRANGE met them in ancient Egypt! The Sorcerer Surpreme's time-traveling tussle with the ancestor of Baron Mordo also took him to World War II, where he fought alongside Sgt. Nick Fury and Nick's late, lamented love, Pam Hawley! But Doc emerged triumphant only to face his greatest heartbreak ever, as Clea left both him and Earth altogether, believing she could never compete with the love of Morgana Blessing. What we do for love. . .

That team of heroes for hire, POWER MAN AND IRON FIST, lost their beloved best chronicler when Jo Duffy left for more Epic pastures. But their adventures, though small in scale, always tackled entertaining corners of the Marvel Universe. Their foes included Sabertooth, Warhawk

MARVEL® COMICS PRICE GUIDE

Listen, Eastern Europe is finally moving toward freedom . But do they know how many Marvel Comics they've missed in the meantime! Heres what you and other freedom fighters can expect to pay for any books you might have missed while laboring in the underground Our source in Robert Overstreet's THE COMIC BOOK PRICE GUIDE #19 But remember this is only a guide Actual prices may vary, and should be lover for comics in fair or poor condition

	CONDITION		
	Good	Fine	Mint
■ AVENGERS			
215-226		.60	1.20
ANNUAL 11	.25	.75	1.50
■ DR. STRANGE			
51-56		.60	1.20
■ FANTASTIC FOUR			
238-249	.40	.60	1.20
■ MASTER OF KUNG FU			
108-117, 119		.30	.60
118 (double size)		.50	1.00
■ POWER MAN AND IRON FIST			
77-88		.40	.80
■ STAR TREK			
18		.60	1.20
■ STAR WARS			
55-66		.50	1.00
ANNUAL 2		.60	1.20
■ X-MEN			
153-157, 159-164	.60	1.75	3.50
158 (1st app. Rogue in X-MEN)	.70	2.00	4.00
ANNUAL 6	.50	1.00	3.00



and the Constrictor, their friends included Daredevil, El Aguila, and Moon Knight.

Most notably for continuity fans, the Power/Fist pair solved the mystery of the Black Tiger, left dangling since the days of the DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU magazine, revealing the African Firebrand to be not the former kung fu star, Abe Brown, but rather the enigmatic, jewel-faced woman known as Brillalae.

Though Shang-Chi was the book's star, the secret agents of MASTER OF KUNG FU were one of the comic's tightest teams. And they had to be, to overcome the undying menace of Fu Manchu! The fearful Fu kidnapped Shang-Chi in order to prolong his life by draining his own son's blood, leading to a double-sized confrontation in which Shang-Chi realized that Sir Denis Nayland Smith was his true father . . . his spiritual father, ever opposed to the evil of his blood father.

Doug Moench and the late Gene Day portrayed Shang-Chi's London as a place of wonder and fear, of gothic intrigue and sinister international machinations. Who were allies, who were enemies? The double agent called Dark Angel might have been just as false as the terrorist known as the Ghost-Maker! Fu's sister, Fah Lo Suee, was either justice's exotic friend, or a foe as redoubtable as the robotic Brynocki! It was all made MASTER OF KUNG FU one of Marvel's most unique and fondly remembered series ever.

Another unconventional team could be found in the futuristic freedom fighters of STAR WARS! With Han Solo out of action after the events of "The Empire Strikes Back" (available only for a flashback adventure in the STAR WARS ANNUAL), the main spotlight shifted to the exploits of Lando Calrissian. Luke Skywalker shone as well, when his romance with pilot Shira Brie ended in tragedy, making Luke a pariah and leaving Shira as the toy of Darth Vader himself! And the rebels gained a cuddly new ally in Plif, the telepathic, rabbit-like creature who provided a new and humorous counterpoint to R2D2 and C-3PO.

While STAR WARS prospered, STAR TREK published just one final issue in 1982, and exploit hinging on a mind meld between Captain Kirk and everyone's favorite Vulcan, Mr. Spock. But while one series was ending, many, many more were beginning! Join us next month as we look at the new series of 1982!

—Brian Nelson

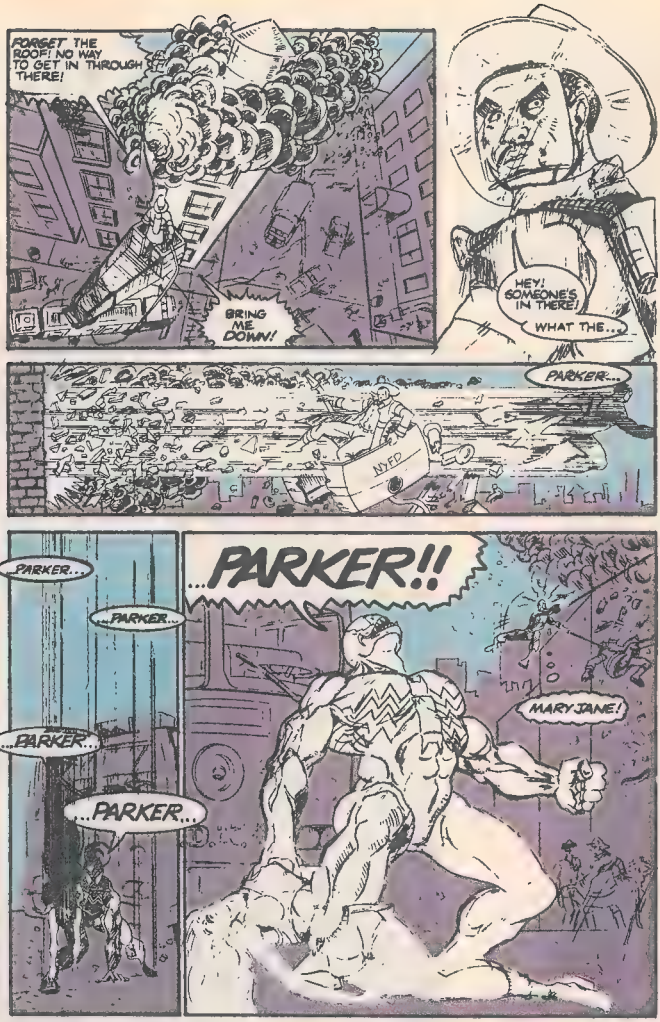
New Talent Department ED LAZELLARI

This installment of the New Talent department features the pencils of up-and-comer Ed Lazellari. Ed hails from that faraway, distant land known as the Bronx, New York. Without too much begging and pleading, he was able to convince MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE to showcase his Spider-Man pages in the New Talent department.

Actually, Ed is a great guy with much potential, and we were happy to hand his work over to ace art critic and Managing Art Director here at Marvel, Stylish Steve Geiger. Steve seemed to be impressed with Ed's overall presentation and had these comments for him.

"Ed has good establishing shots and pays close attention to detail. Overall his storytelling is solid (clear, making good use of angles). But he could be a bit more dramatic. On page two, Ed could have made better use of space and visual emphasis to make the scene work more dynamically. He

NEW YORK CITY.
OUR ANNIVERSARY IS COMING UP, AND I'M FLAT BROKE.
THE STORY OF MY LIFE.
I KNOW MARY JANE WOULDN'T SAY ANYTHING, BUT...
... HUH?
... RAGING INFERNO AT 117 SPRING ST. IN SOHO. FIRE OFFICIALS HAVE NO COMMENT ON THE CAUSE AS OF YET...
HEY!
THAT'S MY PLACE!
MARY JANE!



should also watch arbitrary cropping and objects running out of the panels.

"Ed must work on improving the attractiveness and anatomy of his figures. Life drawing and study will help him in this area.

"Many new artists make the mistake of emulating other comic artists that they admire, without understanding what those artists are doing. What happens is, a second generation type of drawing occurs (a shorthand of someone else's shorthand). Ed would be better served by developing his own shorthand from real life.

"I see good potential in Ed's samples. He has a strong sense of design and composition. And his placement of figures is good. With some hard work and astute observation on his part, he could be getting work soon."

Well, there you have it! We certainly hope Steve's words of wisdom were helpful to Ed and to any other prospective artists.

Which reminds us, if you are an aspiring penciler or inker and would like to send samples of your work to Marvel, you might want to get a copy of our submissions guidelines. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

Marvel Submissions Guide
387 Park Ave. South
New York, NY 10016

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TOP OF THE PAGE, MA!

Send your letters to: MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, c/o Marvel Comics Group, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016

Hey, you! We know you! You're the dirty rat who killed our brother!

Oops, sorry— we was just a little carried away by our Cagney-type letters page title, y'know? The title's the work of the aptly-named Mary McCool of Philadelphia, PA. Thanks, Mary; you're a doll.

But listen here, youse guys. Don't go gettin' any funny ideas, like we don't still need a snazzy new title for this column every month. 'Cause we do. So get to work, see? And if we use one o' your titles, we'll even thank youse right here in black and white. . . and we don't mean prison stripes!

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

I started collecting comics in 1978. I have over 250 of them. Now my friend and I are starting our own comic book.

I've got a couple of questions about the Hulk and how we can give you a look at our comic.

1) Why is the Hulk gray, and will he ever be changed back to green?

2) How did the Hulk become so smart?

And about our comic:

3) Where can we send it so you can get a look at it?

Mark DePasquale
18 Apple Blossom Lane
West Coxsackie, NY 12192

Let's take your first two questions first, Mark:

Actually, when Bruce Banner first got belted by gamma rays and turned into the Hulk, he turned gray, not green! It wasn't until the second issue of THE INCREDIBLE HULK that the Grey Goliath became the Green Gargoyle that we've known and loved for lo, these many years. The Hulk reverted back to his grayer, smarter, and somewhat nastier incarnation in issue #331, when an attempt to cure Bruce went awry. And if you've been following the Hulk's adventures lately, then you probably already know that the green Hulk is back with a vengeance —but so is the gray Hulk! Poor Bruce can't win for losing, can he?

Attention correspondents:
All letters to be considered for publication must include your complete name and address, though we will gladly withhold that info on request!

Oh, and as for your comic book, you can address the envelope "Submissions Editor, Marvel Comics Group," and send it right here to 387 Park Avenue South.

To: Marvel Dudes,

I have nine subscriptions to Marvel Comics, and they're all good comics. I don't want to miss any issues of any subscriptions, so when do I renew my subscriptions? If I renew when my last comic comes, will I miss any issues? How do I know when my last comic comes? If I renew before my last comic comes, will I get two of one comic?

Quinn Chevalier
6587 Wiltshire St.
Sardis, B.C.
V2R 1N8
CANADA

Boy, Quinn, for someone from British Columbia, you sure ask a lot of questions! But worry not. When your subscription is about to expire, you'll get a note from the hardworking folks over in our subscriptions department to let you know that it's time to renew. And as long as you respond reasonably quickly, you won't miss a single issue!

Incidentally, if you're the nervous type, you can find out when your subscription is going to expire at any time by checking the mailing label on the envelope that your comics come in. It'll set your mind at ease, and it's a whole lot better than years of expensive psychotherapy!

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

I just read MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #87, and I'm glad to hear that Art Adams is working on the upcoming LONGSHOT series. And the picture on page 31 is great!

I also have one question: In Freedom Force, who is on that team now? I know that Stonewall and Destiny died in an issue of THE X-MEN and Avalanche was injured. Just wondering.

Thanks for the time you guys took to read my letter. Keep up the great work!

Chad Ewell
212 Bridell Drive
Copperas Cove, TX 76522

And thank *you* for the kind words, Chad! You're right about Freedom Force's losing a couple of members recently, but the rest of the team—Mystique, the Blob, Pyro, the Crimson Commando, and the Super Sabre—are nothing to sneeze at, either!

Still, it's certainly possible that Freedom Force may want to fill out its depleted ranks in the near future. Guess we'll just have to keep our eyes on THE X-MEN, X-FACTOR, and THE NEW MUTANTS to see. . .

Oh, by the way, that great Art Adams painting in issue #87 of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE doesn't appear in print anywhere else but in these hallowed pages. So to all you lucky Marvel Zombies who bought issue #87, congratulations! You got yourself a genuine collector's item!

Wow, look at all that yellow! That can only mean one of two things—either Mister Tallyman is coming to tally us bananas, or it's time for our LETTER OF THE MONTH!

That's right—once again, we've scattered letters hither and yon, looking for one that we think will be of particular interest to the rampaging hordes of Marveldom. And once again, we've printed that lucky letter against a spiffy yellow background in the hopes of making the world a better place. . . or at least a yellower one.

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

I was wondering how colorists, like Tom Vincent or Bob Sharen color. Do they use colored pencils or computers or something? I have always wanted to know.

And while I'm at it, tell Mark to keep Remarking, Salicrup to keep Sectioning, Stan to keep Soapboxing, and Hembeck to. . . er. . . keep Hembecking!

Matthew P. Caruso
20 Chalmers St.
Manchester. CT 06040

Interesting question, Matthew. And given that over the last several months, we've printed letters about writing comics and drawing comics, we figure that this letter should help to serve as equal time for colorists.

As with any kind of artist, different colorists prefer different tools. Some, such as longtime Bullpener Paul Becton, use water-soluble dyes (the most popular brand being Doctor Martin's Dyes). Others, such as MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE's own colorist, Gregory Wright, prefer colored markers. And nowadays, some colorists have begun to use computers to color comic books, as well.

Incidentally, you might also be interested to know that most colorists don't actually work with the original artwork for a comic book. Instead, they lay down their colors on photocopies of the artwork that have been reduced to standard comic book size. That way, the original, black and white art is intact (as it needs to be for publishing purposes), but our printers still know what colors to make everything from Spider-Man's boots to Nick Fury's five o'clock shadow.

And while we're on the topic of technical stuff about comic books. . .

Dear Marvel,

There's one thing I've always wondered, and I was hoping you could help me. Who decides, and how is it decided, how many panels are to appear on a comics page?

Steve Lowry
9325 White Oak
Northridge, CA 91325

To some extent, Steve, the number of panels is limited simply by the size of a comic book page. After all, we *could* put seventy-three panels on a page, but we'd have to supply you with a magnifying glass to read them! As a rough estimate, we'd say that most comic book pages range from about four panels to about nine.

Within those limits, though, the number of panels on a page depends on a number of factors. You have to take the amount of action taking place on the page into account (obviously, if a lot is happening, you need more panels), but you also have to think about the amount that's going on in each panel (if a lot is going on in a particular panel, it's going to have to be pretty big, and that'll cut down on the space that's

THIS IS A STROKE OF LUCK, eh, CHUMS?
YEAH. HOW 'BOUT IT, MYSTIQUE. DO WE GET TO KICK SOME AVENGER BUTT NOW?
YES, BLOB. THE AVENGERS HAVE JUST ASSAULTED DULY AUTHORIZED GOVERNMENT AGENTS--
SUBDUE THEM USING WHATEVER FORCE IS NECESSARY!
ALL RIGHT!
BUT ONE MEMBER OF FREEDOM FORCE IS NOT SO ENTHUSIASTIC.

left for other panels). And then there are a host of other factors that have to be taken into account, such as the artist's own personal sense of design and even the position of the page within the story (since, for instance, splash pages generally contain only one panel).

As for who makes the choice, it's usually some combination of the writer and penciler. The writer typically decides how much is going to happen on a particular page (and may even do panel-by-panel breakdowns of the action on the page). But the penciler still has some leeway in deciding on the best way to present that action, and that'll affect the number of panels, too. Of course, the final decision rests with the editor, though, and an editor might change a page if he or she thinks that the page really doesn't tell the story clearly. So when you come down to it, it's just like anything else here at the House of Ideas—we can't figure out *who's* in charge!

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

I have been collecting comics for about a year, and since you have been coming out with many titles, have you ever thought about making a villain title, like in the format of MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS? You could have one about Venom, Doctor Doom . . .

Anyway, I also have a complaint about some titles like SHE-HULK or EXCALIBUR. They are good titles, but I wish you would get some stories that are more serious. I mean, the Cross-Time Caper and now Crusader X? Give me a break!

Charles Yoon
3244 South Johnson
Visalia, CA 93277

Gee, Charles, the reason that the SHE-HULK and EXCALIBUR aren't as serious as our other series is that they're *supposed* to be a little more lighthearted than most. But if you want to see more serious She-Hulk stories, you might want to check your local comics specialty shop to see if it still has any copies of the SHE-HULK: CEREMONY Limited Series. The two-part series is a little more straight than Shulkie's monthly book, and if that's not enough, it also resolves her long-time, on-again-off-again romance with Wyatt Wingfoot once and for all!

Turning to your other question, we have indeed published several comics series starring super-villains in the past (most notably SUPER-VILLAIN TEAM-UP and the Doctor Doom series that ran in ASTONISHING TALES in the 1960s). But if it's new stories about villains that you want, well, we suggest you keep your eyes peeled for the THANOS Limited Series coming your way this Summer. After all, considering that the series revolves around Thanos's plot to wipe out half the universe, it might be your last chance to enjoy *any* comic book!

ANSWERS TO MARVEL® TRIVIA QUIZ

1. A	5. B	9. A
2. D	6. A	10. C
3. B	7. C	11. C
4. C	8. A	12. B

And on that fun but fatalistic note, we come to the end of yet another letters page. But before we hum the Star-Spangled Banner and end our broadcasting day, let's take a minute to meet another heaping helping of MARVEL CORRESPONDENTS, those lithesome lads and lasses who are looking for letters postmarked in locations from Louisiana to Lapland! Why not take a minute and drop one or two of 'em a line? Better do it fast, though; if Thanos has his way, you might not have much time left!

MARVEL® CORRESPONDENTS

If you'd like to be listed in this column yourself, simply send your name, address, age, and the titles of your three favorite Marvel Comics to Marvel Correspondents at the address high atop this letters page. As Aunt May might say, "Go for it, dudes and dudettes!"

Tim Cifelli
608 Mansfield Road
Willow Grove, PA 19090
Age: 15
Favorites: X-MEN, X-FACTOR, G.I. JOE

Kenny Mok
32 Northdale Road
Frizing Hall
Bradford, West Yorkshire
BD9 4HG
United Kingdom
Age: 23
Favorites: G.I. JOE, AVENGERS, CAPTAIN AMERICA

Micah Acox
Rt. 2, Box 61
Wheelersberg, OH 45694
Age: 15
Favorites: X-FACTOR, X-MEN, NEW MUTANTS

David Cooksey
Rt. 3, Box 402
Cameron, TX 76520
Age: 15
Favorites: THE 'NAM, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, MARVEL AGE

Mike Petrie
34159 Gem Circle
N. Ridgeville, OH 44039

Robert Cramer
25 N. Potomac Street, Apt. 507
Waynesboro, PA 17268
Age: 40
Favorites: FANTASTIC FOUR, POWER PACK, AVENGERS

Danny Morrow
2100 Hawthorne Street
Crest Hill, IL 60435
Age: 20
Favorites: AVENGERS, X-MEN, WEST COAST AVENGERS

Sam Melendez
7621 Inland Drive
Olmsted Falls, OH 44138
Age: 15
Favorites: POWER PACK, X-MEN, AVENGERS

Douglas Darnielle, Jr.
7789 Gov. Davis Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70811
Age: 18
Favorites: STRIKEFORCE MORITURI, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, STAR BRAND

Amanda Kiligore
1435 Sue Barnett
Houston, TX 77018
Age: 18
Favorites: X-MEN, ALPHA FLIGHT, NEW MUTANTS

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THE 1990 MARVEL AGE® CALENDAR

"SEPTEMBER"

WRITERS: CHRIS ELIOPOULOS AND BARRY DUTTER
ARTIST: RON ZALME
COLORIST: MARIE JAVINS

WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY
SATURDAY
QUASAR GOES SHOPPING
I'D LIKE TO BUY A TV.
YES SIR -- WHAT KIND WOULD YOU LIKE?
NEED YOU ASK?
HAPPY B-DAY, JESUS 'WHITEY' GONZALEZ (STAT MAN) AND ONLY A MONTH LATE, TOO!
1
SPECIAL SHOLLY FISCH'S BIRTHDAY ISSUE!
5
HAPPY B-DAY, MIKE ZECK!
6
HAVE A HAPPY B-DAY ROB TOKAR!
7
I'M MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE!
HEY, LOOK! ROBBIE THE ROBOT!
8
12
IT'S ASST. EDITOR GARY BARNUM'S BIRTHDAY!
13
HAPPY B-DAY, LONG-TIME LETTERER JIM NOVAK, BUB.
14
WOLVEY
TOMORROW IS DIRECT SALES PROJECT MANAGER KURT BUSIEK'S B-DAY!
15
MR. FEAR'S NEIGHBORHOOD
19
CAN YOU SAY...
BOO!
AAAAUGH!!
VERY GOOD...
20
21
ICEMAN AS A CHILD --
22
GOO.
IT'S LOUISE SIMONSON'S X-DAY! ER... B-DAY!
26
IT'S COLORIST BOB SHAREN'S DAY-O-BIRTH!
27
HOW MANY TIMES CAN YOU USE THE SAME JOKE?
DEFALCO AND THE SNOWMAN!
28
29